

Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you believe that the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012, as allegedly predicted by a Mayan calendar?

| | |
|------------|-----|
| Yes | 25 |
| No | 214 |
| Undecided | 6 |
| No opinion | 9 |

Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012

INSIDE

BUSINESS



Obama scales back his ambitions for a budget bargain with the GOP.

► PAGE 15

WORLD



Egypt's Islamist-backed constitution received a "yes" majority vote.

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LIFE & STYLE



Ashton Kutcher files court papers to end his marriage to Demi Moore.

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Overstaying patient incurs \$1.5M in bills. PAGE 2
\$50K bail set for alleged robber. PAGE 6

3 groups raise concerns with USCIS

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three major associations of employers and management in the CNMI have joined forces to express their concern with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services over its recent announcement about Transitional Commonwealth-only permit renewal application's policy that, according to the groups, will force foreign employees to stop working, causing severe impact to the economy in the Commonwealth.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI voiced their concern with Washington, D.C.-based USCIS director Alejandro Mayorkas.

In a letter dated Dec. 20, 2012, Chamber president Douglas Brennan, HANMI chair Nick Nishikawa, and SHRM-CNMI chair Deborah Camacho told Mayorkas that their associations, the businesses, and hotels they represent, and the employees themselves are extremely concerned for the imminent hardship that will occur when the original visas begin to expire without corresponding renewal approvals.

See GROUPS on Page 4

MOCHITSUKI FESTIVAL

Colorado-based Aurora Santos Dean raises the wooden mallet to pound mochi, the sticky rice cake which is a New Year staple for the Japanese, during the annual Mochitsuki Festival at Paseo de Marianas on Saturday evening.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Ermitanio is VFW's Pacific competition champion

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A tenth grader from Marianas High School emerged as this year's big winner in the Veterans of Foreign Wars annual essay competition, winning both in the district and department divisions to earn the honor of representing the Pacific at the national event in Washington, D.C. next year.

Jaydene Ermitanio's audio-essay about the importance and relevance of the Constitution bested entries in the Commonwealth and Guam and, later, entries from Japan, Okinawa, Thailand, Taipei, and



MONETH G. DEPOSA

VFW's "Voice of Democracy" district and department champion Jaydene Ermitanio, second from left, poses with the officials of the VFW Saipan post and Marianas High School administrators during Friday's awarding ceremony on campus. Ermitanio emerged as the competition's Pacific champion, who will vie for the national title in Washington, D.C. in March next year.

'44 NMC employees quit in just a year'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Forty-four employees have resigned from the Northern Marianas College in just a span of a year, according to former Faculty Senate president and longtime college staff Larry Lee, who said this exodus speaks a lot about

the leadership of NMC president Sharon Hart, Ph.D.

» Abrupt rescinding of HR policies bared

Speaking during the Board of Regents meeting on Friday, Lee urged the board to immediately act on the "alarming concerns" of personnel or more resignations will follow, potentially resulting in the fall of the institution.

See NMC on Page 4

the Philippines. She will fly to Washington D.C. in March next year to vie for the national title where at stake is a \$30,000 scholarship.

Ermitanio, in an awarding ceremony Friday at Marianas High School, expressed surprise upon learning the big

See ERMITANIO on Page 4

NO PUBLICATION

The *Saipan Tribune* will not be published on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2012, and on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2013. Happy holidays!

Local

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Dr. David Khorram comes from Guam to Saipan every 2 weeks and continues to work with Dr. Robertson to provide excellent optical, medical, surgical, and laser eye care to the people of the CNMI.

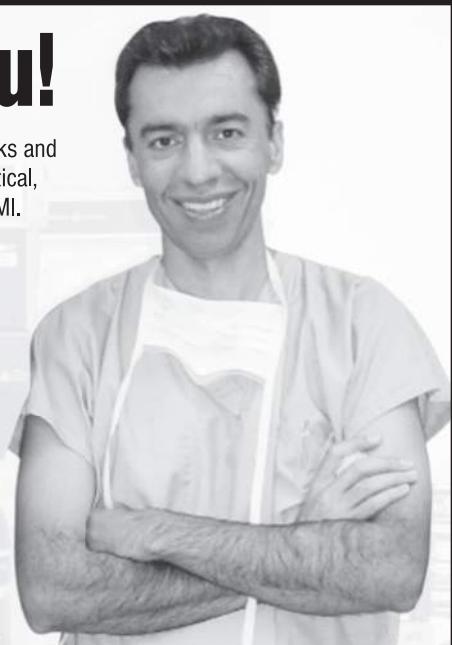
- Listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists"
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- Researcher, Diabetic Retinopathy Research Network
- Published articles in international medical journals

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Overstaying patient incurs \$1.5M in hospital bills

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI taxpayers have been paying for the medical care of a Chinese national who has been overstaying at the cash-strapped public hospital for almost three years now, incurring over \$1 million in expenses.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta and COO Esther Muna confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that 49-year-old Jing ZhiQuiang from China has been confined at the Com-

monwealth Health Center since Feb. 23, 2010.

Based on records from CHC's billing and collection division, the corporation has spent approximately \$1.5 million for the patient's medical needs—from doctors, to nurses, to medicines, and other supplies. The patient is comatose and is at the hospital's C-ward.

According to Babauta and Muna, ZhiQuiang was admitted to CHC at the time when the agency was still under the government.

"We've been caring for this patient for almost three years now and this hospital is in critical financial situation. I think that we have done way and above our humanitarian hand to keep him alive and it's time that we reach out to the Chinese government to care for him," said Babauta yesterday, adding that all efforts of the corporation to transfer care of the patient has failed.

Babauta and Muna disclosed that CHCC earlier sought help from the Chinese Association in the CNMI, the Chinese consular office, the patient's kin, and his previous employers on island but no one expressed willingness to help.

"No one is willing to step forward to take care of him. So we're appealing to the Chi-

nese government to care for its citizen because, with this financial crisis we're in, we cannot afford to keep him much longer," said Babauta, adding that CHCC will seek reimbursement from the Chinese government for all expenses incurred for the patient.

The corporation operates as an independent agency and relies heavily on its own revenues and collection.

Saipan Tribune learned that Babauta, as CEO of the corporation, was appointed by the court as the patient's legal guardian since April 2012

after no one came forward to get him. As legal guardian, the CEO has the authority to make all surrogate medical treatment decisions for the patient.

"I am appealing to the Chinese government to take custody of this individual because we have been caring for him for three years at the cost of CNMI taxpayers and now at the cost of the corporation. We just simply cannot afford to care for him much longer," added the CEO.

Records obtained by the corporation indicate that the Chinese national had an employment status from July 22, 2004, that expired on July 22, 2005. It was found that ZhiQuiang was set for deportation and had a self-inflicted injury at the airport.



Babauta

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Proposed disqualification of judge denied

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saiplantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos denied Wednesday a motion to disqualify fellow associate judge Joseph N. Camacho in presiding over an ongoing "ice" case, saying that Camacho's ruling in the suspect's prior probation revocation hearing is not enough basis for his disqualification.

Joseph A. Crisostomo, who is charged with one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance and one count of criminal contempt, had asked Inos to disqualify Camacho from presiding over any further proceedings because the judge has already made a factual determination in the case pursuant to a previous probation revocation ruling.

Crisostomo also argued that Camacho's spousal relationship with acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo, whose name appears in court documents, may affect the suspect's case.

Inos ruled, however, that a judge is obligated to remain on the case if a movant fails to show good cause for recusal or disqualification.

In the nine-page order, Inos also ruled that Camacho's ruling in the defendant's prior probation revocation hearing serves no basis for disqualification.

fication. He said Camacho's preview of the facts in this case arose in the course of ordinary judicial proceedings rather than from an extrajudicial source.

Inos also determined that Camacho's relationship with Viola Alepuyo does not require disqualification. Inos said he finds little evidence to reasonably question Camacho's impartiality. He said a person working in the Office of the Attorney General also has no significant reputational interest in the outcome of a case.

"Under the circumstances where Ms. Alepuyo served as acting AG for a very limited time long after this case was filed and has not participated or appeared in this case, and continues to be screened off, Judge Camacho's impartiality could not be reasonably questioned," stated Inos' order.

It was in March this year when Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho revoked the probation of Crisostomo, whom he described then as a habitual offender and re-imposed the remaining five-year sentence in a previous burglary case in 2006. Camacho then said that the long criminal history of the defendant and recent charges "be-speak a deep lack of respect for the law and the people of the CNMI."

Happy Holidays!

**From the Staff
and Management
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Stores open to serve you on Christmas Day, December 25th

DUI checkpoints this week

As part of 2012 National Campaign and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, the Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI/sobriety checkpoints on the dates and times listed below:

SAIPAN CHECKPOINTS

■ Dec. 25, 2012: from 6:30pm to

NMC

From Page 1

Lee urged the board to strip Hart of the authority it earlier gave her to decide on all human resource policies, including the hiring and firing of employees.

"When you're talking about HR policies, you're talking about people's lives. I urge the board to please go and get the facts and base your decision on these facts. The policies are changing almost everyday...a lot of employees are resigning and recording 44 resignations in just one year speaks something about the leadership in this college," Lee told the board during the meeting's public comment period.

He said the authority on HR policies should remain at the board level to protect employees.

Lee showed the board some documents illustrating a number of policies that he said were abruptly rescinded or enforced by the president without the practice of "shared governance."

Among these are new HR procedures in announcing vacancies at the college. Hart allegedly decided that these vacancies will be announced "internally." Lee alleged that this was implemented to favor a close friend of the president.

He said the faculty and staff's con-

cerns resulted in a meeting on Nov. 2 where the management's new HR director/legal counsel Christopher Timmons was invited to shed light on existing and new procedures.

Hart was also accused of trying to eliminate shared governance. According to faculty member Kyle Podziewski, vice chair for the college council, he was instructed by Hart's office to agree to rescind HR policies.

"Last week, I was directed by the Office of the President to hold a meeting and was directed...to approve the rescinding of HR policies that eliminated one of those bodies in shared governance—the college council—and replaced by management. The council rejected it because we're an independent body and should not be directed by the president on how to act. It's important to understand that accreditation is not looking only at policies but practice. When good practice is eliminated...it's harming the college," Podziewski said. He urged the board to seek a copy of his report to the president where he also stated similar concerns.

Cindy Guerrero, who stood as a parent, described the shared governance of NMC as merely "theory and philosophy" that needs to be practiced in actuality.

Former ASNMC president Lawrence Camacho expressed support for the faculty's position. He criti-

Puerto Rico by Army Reserve.

■ Dec. 29-30: 11pm to 12:15am, Beach Road Garapan by Bank Pacific and 2am to 3:15am, Beach Road Chalan Kanoa by Triple J.

TINIAN CHECKPOINTS

■ Dec. 23, 2012: 6pm to 7:15pm, southbound lane along Broadway Road by Housing Turnkey and at 9pm to 10:15pm eastbound route 202 along

cized Hart for her allegedly excessive travel expenses.

No decision yet

The Board of Regents on Friday spent several hours in an executive session solely to discuss the no-confidence vote issued against Hart last week. In the closed-door meeting were at least three members of the Faculty Senate: president Amanda Angel-Diaz, Kyle Podziewski, and Cindy Guerrero. Hart was also invited to participate in the executive session.

The board, however, did not decide on the matter pending the submission of both parties' report and responses.

Saipan Tribune learned that Angel-Diaz was given three days to provide Hart "specific details" of all the allegations raised against her. It is expected that the board will make a determination when it resumes meeting this week.

Prior to going into executive session and before the public comments was conducted, Hart was given time to speak. The president, in her short message, expressed her willingness to listen, learn from, and work with the faculty and employees so they could move forward for the benefit of NMC.

BOR chair Juan T. Lizama pointed out that a no-confidence vote for the president is not meant to "discourage or get rid of the president," but to bring positive results for the college in the

the Tinian Mayor's Office.

■ Dec. 24: 7pm to 8:15pm southbound lane Broadway along Natibu park.

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect, and apprehend impaired drivers and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are wearing restraining

devices, seatbelts, or car seats.

In addition, traffic and highway patrol officers will be conducting high visibility enforcement and laser (speed detection) enforcement in between these checkpoints and throughout December. (DPS)

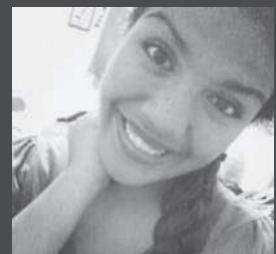
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 12th birthday to Justin Arriola! We love you and best wishes to you. Keep up the good work and enjoy your special day. Greetings come from the family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Advanced happy 13th birthday to Arron Cushing, who is celebrating his special day tomorrow, Dec. 25! With love, greetings come from Mom, Dad, and your whole family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy sweet 16th birthday to Tina Del Itibus Olaitiman! Hope you had a wonderful one! We love you very much! Stay pretty as always! God bless you with many more birthdays to come! Love always, Valyn, Miti, Mom, Sumech, Bev, Lani, Peter, Jun, Jas, Mika, Mikey Boy, friends, and family.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GROUPS

From Page 1

Brennan, Nishikawa, and Camacho said this will force employees to stop working and severely impact their personal lives and the lives of their families, in addition to the businesses that provide their jobs, services, and economic benefit to the Commonwealth.

USCIS Honolulu district director David Gulick, at a Chamber meeting on Dec. 5, 2012, and on Dec. 6, 2012 before the SHRM-CNMI, informed the groups for the first time that all those CW-1 permit holders that were applying for renewal of their CW-1 permits would not be allowed to continue working if their CW renewals are not approved before their original employment permits expired.

Gulick stated that without a valid permit past the original CW permit expiration date, the alien worker "no longer has employment authorization."

USCIS recommends that employers file renewal applications at least 90 days prior to the original permit's expiration.

Brennan, Nishikawa, and Camacho urged Mayorkas for consideration and assistance in resolving "imminent consequences affecting employees and employers" during the implementation of the CW-1 transitional period permit program within the current federal immigration authority in the Commonwealth.

The group leaders noted that as of those Dec. 5 and 6, 2012 meetings, of the original 12,247 filings for CW-1 employment permits filed by December 2011, over 2,500 permit applications remain pending with the USCIS Center.

"While those approximately 2,500 outstanding applications are in processing, renewal applications are being submitted for those CW-1 permit holders nearing their expiration," Brennan, Nishikawa, and Camacho pointed out.

They cited that at the end of 2011, during the initial CW-1 permit application process, an extension for those applying was granted so as to allow those employers and employees utilizing the CW-1 permit transitional period program to not suffer economic hardship.

"USCIS simply could not process in the period of time originally determined

by USCIS to be adequate processing time. Our associations believe this will be occurring again, but this time with consequences where employees will be forced to stop working," Brennan, Nishikawa, and Camacho said.

The three associations requested Mayorkas that similar consideration be provided, and that those original CW-1 permit holders having applied for renewal permits within the recommended 90-day advance application processing be allowed to continue working for their respective employers.

Although they are aware that "the CW-1 nonimmigrant may not work except during the validity of the petition," Brennan, Nishikawa, and Camacho said USCIS did not inform them that a 90-day advance filing of CW-1 permit applications would be required so as to not create any hardship upon businesses and employees.

"We realize that a 90-day advance filing is wise, and would ask that USCIS allow those that have applied during that period be allowed to continue to work during any period where the application has not been granted for those in the renewal process," they said.

At a minimum, they said, USCIS should prioritize the processing of renewal application ahead of the pending initial applications and much faster than the current processing period.

The associations stated that the CNMI-only transitional period CW-1 permit process is just as new to the CNMI's employers and employees as it is to USCIS.

"We have seen evidence of USCIS granting exceptions to existing regulation protocol as a result of the unique situation with respect to the large nonimmigrant employee population in the CNMI," the associations' leaders said.

Brennan, Nishikawa, and Camacho said that as the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (federalization law) states, the CNRA is "to minimize, to the greatest extent practicable, potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing-out the Commonwealth's nonresident contract worker program and to maximize the Commonwealth's potential for future economic and business growth by..." they request consideration by allowing those with expired CW-1 permits to continue to work until their renewal applications are granted.



From left, Northern Marianas College Board of Regents members Malua Peter, Juan Lizama, Frank Rabauliman, and Elaine Orilla consult each other during a short break Friday whether the board will allow NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., to speak before the public comment period of the board meeting.

ERMITANIO

From Page 1

news. She said this was the first time she participated in the VFW competition's "Voice of America" category, which is open for high school students.

"This is unexpected and I was so surprised!" she said. In writing her essay, Ermitanio revealed that she spent some time researching about the U.S. Constitution.

Ermitanio is the first to bag the championship title for MHS and the second student from the CNMI to bag the Pacific title and advance to the na-

tionals. The first was a Northern Marianas Academy student who competed many years ago.

According to VFW Post 3457 commander Mariano Fajardo, Ermitanio went home with \$700 total cash prize for her award-winning essay.

Fajardo, along with other officials and members of the post, also recognized Friday other winners in this year's competition. Winners in the "Patriot's Pen" category, which is open to middle school students, included Marianas Baptist Academy's Rachel Balillio (first place); MBA's Katrina Reyes (second place); and MBA's John Tam (third place).

For the "Voice of Democracy" com-

petition for high school, MHS' Ermitanio, first place; MHS' Mary Grace Ti-glao, second place; and MBA's Cheney Rhyoo, third place.

There were more than 40 entries in this year's contest. Fajardo is encouraging more students to join the event next year. Entries to the competitions were all judged by selected members of the community.

As excited as this year's Pacific champion is MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera, who described her student's achievement as a wonderful opportunity for her future and a testament to the great potential of NMI students at the national level.

Rotary donates toys for DYS kids, elects new officers

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Members of the Rotary Club of Saipan handed their toy donations to the CNMI Salvation Army and elected new officers during their Christmas party at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio last week.

Each Rotarian agreed to bring two toys, resulting in 76 items that will benefit the children served by the Division of Youth Services.

Rotary officials led by president Pete Shilling on Tuesday presented the toys to Wayne Gillespie, Salvation Army ministry leader, and his wife Annie Gillespie.

Wayne Gillespie said donation is an equal partnership between the club and the Salvation Army to make the DYS children feel that they are remembered, especially during the holidays.

"The reason that we chose DYS is because these are the kids on island who think that the world has abandoned them. They think that nobody loves them anymore—many of them do," he explained.

Shilling said the toy drive has become an annual initiative of the Rotary Club of Saipan, with the collection for the last four years being donated to the Salvation Army.

"Christmas is a special time for kids," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We have to always remember also that this is the

birthday of Jesus who was a very giving man. This is a time especially for young kids involved with DYS not to be forgotten, to be remembered and to receive something special at Christmas time."

New officers

During the event that had the theme "Sparkle with Peace," the Rotarians also elected its roster of officers who would lead the organization in Rotary year 2013-2014, which is set to begin in July 2013.

They are president Laila Y. Boyer, vice president Richard Cody, secretary Jeff Boyer, treasurer Nhing Reyes, and sergeant-at-arms Wayne Gillespie.

The club also selected the directors for the various committees. They are Farah Younis, Club Service; Curtis Danco, Community Service; Reina Camacho, New Generation; Kelly Butcher, Vocational Services; Shilling, International Services; and Pete Igital, Foundation.

Shilling expressed confidence in Rotary's incoming leadership, describing his successor, Boyer, as a "very dynamic" individual with a lot of energy. "I don't know how she manages to run her business, take care of her children, and still have all the time that she dedicates to Rotary. She's just phenomenal and we couldn't ask to have a better president than Laila Boyer."

Boyer, in a separate inter-



view, noted that the economic condition of the island would be the biggest challenge for a non-profit group like Rotary.

"We're really going to try to be creative and find ways to build more partnership, being able to collaborate with more community projects that way. Our goal is to really increase the visual presence of Rotary," she said.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Officers of the Rotary Club of Saipan pose for a group photo with CNMI Salvation Army ministry leaders Wayne and Annie Gillespie following the presentation of donated toys that would be distributed to children at the Division of Youth Services during the club's Christmas party on Dec. 18.

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Pies

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Happy New Year!*

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\$50K bail set for alleged robber

Superior Court associate judge Joseph Camacho has set a \$50,000 bail for Roland Ealey Jr., the suspect in a robbery case early this month. In Friday's bail hearing, the judge ordered Ealey to be detained at the Department of Corrections.

Camacho imposed the \$50,000 bail because of the manner in which Ealey committed the alleged crime. Ealey, based on court document, put his victim in a chokehold, which Camacho said is similar to a dangerous weapon that can cause serious bodily injury such as suffocation or a broken neck. The victim suffered serious injuries.

Ealey, who is set to be ar-

aigned on Jan. 7, is facing charges of robbery, assault and battery, theft, and disturbing the peace. If found guilty, he faces a maximum of 26 years and six months in prison.

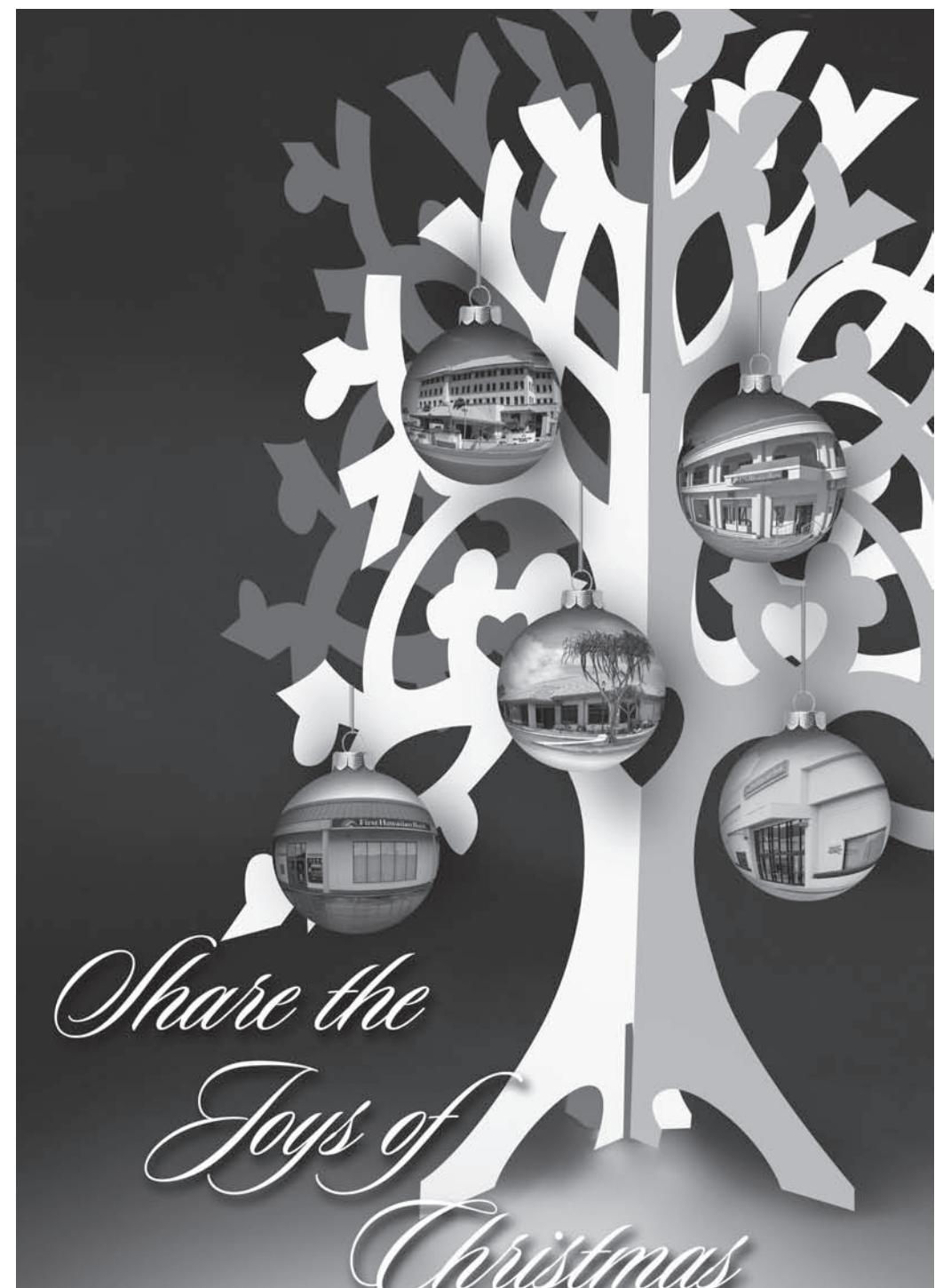
According to court documents, Ealey was issued an arrest warrant on Dec. 19, 2012, at 6:28pm in As Matuis after he was positively identified by his victim.

The 20-year-old Ealey reportedly robbed a female victim at Capitol Bowling located south of Garapan Elementary School on Dec. 11 at about 8:49pm. Pre-

liminary investigation revealed that victims, Ji Min Hong and her daughter, were heading back to Capitol Hotel when Ealey came from behind them and punched Hong in the face and took the victim's valuables consisting of a signature wallet worth \$900; cellular phone worth \$399; digital camera worth \$400; and \$800 cash. The suspect then fled with his red pickup truck, which was later identified by the victims.

Ealey Jr.

Ealey appeared in Friday's bail hearing with his counsel, Matthew Meyers. The government was represented by assistant attorney general Jacinta Kaipat. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)



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SNILD fails anew to have quorum, sets another session today

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation failed again on Friday to have a quorum to vote for the passage of a local bill that would appropriate \$200,344 for various projects, including \$76,144 for partial payment for land compensation to 80-year-old Luisa Borja Quitugua.

"I'm frustrated! Sixteen members cannot make it. It's just unreal!" Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (IR-Saipan) said shortly after the session was adjourned.

The delegation, chaired by Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), will convene a special session today, Monday, at 9am, just to entertain House Local Bill 17-89, D2.

The delegation resumed its session on Friday at 9am, but only 15 Saipan lawmakers showed up—one lawmaker shy from a quorum.

Tebuteb resumed the session later that day at 1:30pm after Rep. Ray N. Yumul (IR-Saipan) promised Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR) that he will attend. Yumul, however, did not show up, prompting the chair to set a new session for today, Monday.

Also absent at the session were Sen. Luis Crisostimo (R-Saipan), Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Frederick Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Sylvester Iguel (R-Saipan), and vice speaker Felicidad Ogunoro (R-Saipan).

Reyes said that Crisostimo could not make it as he is sick and currently off-island.

"It's sad, unbelievable [that] we cannot act together. We have family that has suffered injustice for more than 20 years," Reyes said, referring to Quitugua.

Quitugua on Thursday cried shortly after the delegation failed to vote for the passage of House Local Bill 17-89, D2. Her son, Elbert Quitugua, and her lawyer, Jennifer Dockter, attended the session on Friday. Two government lawyers also appeared at the morning session.

Dockter said the Quitugas are reasonable people, care about their neighbors and the community, and are acting in good faith.

Asked if the Quitugas will not block a road in As Teo if they get partial payment, Dockter said she cannot make a promise for the family to pursue legal rights.

"But I can promise that it will be a huge step, impact in our negotiations," the lawyer added.

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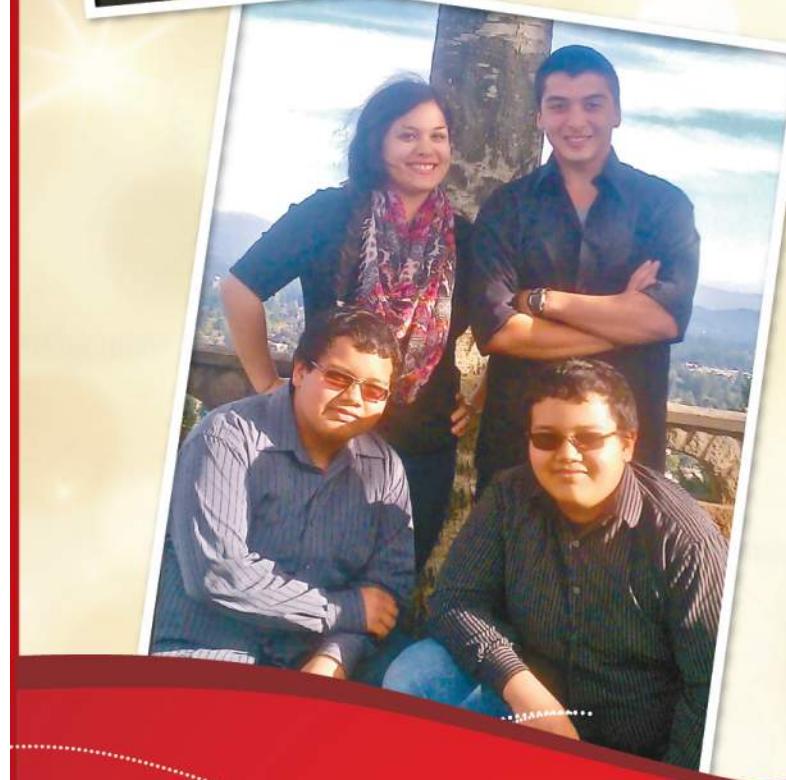


Our family wishes you
and yours a Christmas rich
with family love,
warm with friendship
and blessed with the joys
of the holiday season.

And our best wishes for a new year
happy with life's goodness and prosperity.

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Kilili, Andrea and family



Delegation allocates \$150K for Saipan projects

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan lawmakers on Friday unanimously passed on first and final reading a local bill that appropriates \$149,446.98 from the Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund for various projects, including for the Public School System's water and wastewater program.

By a 16-0 vote, members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation adopted Rep. Ray N. Yumul (IR-Saipan)'s floor amendment to House Local Bill 17-81 that was introduced by Speaker Eli D. Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Delegation members also

adopted the floor amendment of Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) to include repair and renovation of the San Antonio basketball court fence and bleachers under the \$19,425.73 from prior appropriations for the construction and renovation of the Koblerville basketball court bleachers and for construction of two concrete picnic tables.

Asked by Rep. Ralph Demapan (IR-Saipan) as to the availability of funding, Yumul said the Department of Finance has informed him that as of Nov. 28, 2012, the balance of the Developer's

Infrastructure Tax Fund is \$149,447.

Of the amount, a total of \$94,446.98 will be distributed for the PSS water and wastewater program, Yumul said, with the PSS commissioner or his/her designee serving as the expenditure authority.

Yumul said \$15,000 will be appropriated for the animal shelter sewer disposal system, with the Saipan mayor or his/her designee serving as the expenditure authority.

The lawmaker said \$25,000 will go to the construction of

a crosswalk fronting the Eucon International School and other locations within the island, with the Department of Public Works secretary or his/her designee being the expenditure authority.

The remaining \$15,000 will be allocated for the construction and improvement of the drainage system by the San Antonio basketball court, with the DPW secretary or his/her designee serving as the expenditure authority.

Absent at the session were Sen. Luis Crisostimo (R-Saipan), Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), Sylvester Iguel (R-Saipan), and vice speaker Felicidad Ogunoro (Cov-Saipan).



Yumul

As the Holiday Season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped to shape our business in a most significant way. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come.

*Merry Christmas
to all!*



www.tanholdings.com

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 24, 1999

AGO pressed to sue US military

Amid mounting fears on the dangers of polychlorinated biphenyls contamination on Saipan, lawmakers have called on the Attorney General's Office to file lawsuit to compensate victims, reimburse the government and clean up Tanapag of the highly-toxic chemicals left by U.S. military. In a joint resolution adopted by the Senate the other day, they said efforts to remove the chemicals from the contaminated area as well as to identify costs associated with the problem, such as medical care and loss of properties, have been largely inadequate.

DOI's help sought for regional carrier

Senators have asked the assistance of the U.S. Department of the Interior in drumming support from other federal agencies that could help the CNMI and other Micronesian islands establish an alternative regional airline. The move is part of the efforts by island leaders to seek other carriers to service the Micronesian region following cutback in direct flights by Continental Airlines from key Asian destinations. In a resolution, the Senate urged DOI's Office of Insular Affairs to coordinate with the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration and other agencies in seeking alternate airlines for the CNMI for both domestic and international routes.

Dec. 24, 2003

Legislature eyes more FTEs for CHC nurses

House Speaker Heinz S. Hofsneider is pushing for a back-to-back session with the Senate when the Legislature tackles before the end of the month the joint resolution that would grant the Commonwealth Health Center additional slots or FTEs for nurses. Toward this end, Hofsneider said he has urged Gov. Juan N. Babauta in a recent meeting to speak with the Senate president and convey the need for the back-to-back session. "That's what I've talked to the governor, and that is to raise the attention of the Senate president to have a session, so that we can deal with this bill appropriately before the end of the year," said Hofsneider.

'Actuarial study needed to see impact of RIAA'

The NMI Retirement Fund is now in the process of having an actuarial study done on the impact that the Retirement Integrity Assurance Act will have on the Fund's financial status, according to Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes. Reyes said the Fund has already received a quotation from Mellon Human Resources and Investor Solutions for the conduct of the study that would give the Fund's Board of Trustees a concrete idea of the changes that the Act will have on the government's retirement program and the benefits it will accrue with the bill's passage. Reyes declined to specify how much Mellon is asking for it to conduct the study but he mentioned during last Friday's board meeting that the cost could range between \$7,500 and \$10,000.

Dec. 24, 2004

CNMI and Guam not paying governors association dues?

The CNMI and Guam have reportedly not been paying their dues to the Western Governor's Association, aligning themselves as "delinquent" members of the group. A Dec. 20, 2004 report on *The Oregonian* about the Oregon state not paying dues to the WGA and the National Governors Association had cited Texas, Kansas, Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI on the list of states or territories that have not paid WGA dues. When asked about this yesterday, Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Finance Secretary Fermin Atalig both expressed lack of knowledge about being behind the dues. "We do pay," Babauta quickly said but later hesitated, saying, "I'll check the record."

Decompression chamber proposed for each island

Rota and Tinian lawmakers have successfully lobbied to insert a provision in a bill appropriating for the purchase of three decompression chambers to cover the two islands rather than only Saipan, as originally proposed. Prior to the majority passage of House Bill 14-217 on Tuesday, Rota Rep. Crispin Ogo insisted that his island, together with Tinian, should also be equipped with the life-saving chamber. The bill originally intended to provide the Commonwealth Health Center, the CNMI's lone hospital on Saipan, with the decompression equipment to save the lives of deep-sea divers suffering from nitrogen poisoning, more commonly known as the bends, or related sickness.



Bridging business and community through the Seasons

"As we near the day of love and sharing that is Christmas, we are reminded that through the seasons, it is our people that has bridged the divide between business and community. Their sense of true volunteerism and dedication to social progress and the welfare of the communities is a testament to our deep affection and commitment to the islands and its people.

Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!"



Jerry Tan



Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Daniel Inouye, a hero before his time

Daniel K. Inouye's death was appropriately noteworthy last week in Washington. Inouye was a giant in Hawaiian politics. He served the islands in Congress since statehood in 1959, the first Japanese-American in the House and Senate.

A moderate-to-liberal Democrat, he gained and enjoyed the influence befitting more than five decades in the Senate. He played key roles in congressional investigations of the Watergate and Iran-Contra scandals. At his death, at age 88, he chaired the powerful Appropriations Committee and was the longest-serving senator and president pro tempore of the Senate, third in succession to the presidency.

Obituaries also made dutiful reference to an earlier time that transcended partisan politics, the part that truly made Dan Inouye an American hero.

Inouye was one of the last members of Congress who served in World War II. He did it for a nation, still suspicious after Pearl Harbor, that didn't want him in uniform. Instead, it jailed thousands of Americans of his nationality in makeshift shacks behind barbed wire.

Still, Inouye and other young Japanese-Americans longed to prove they were as American as anyone else. Finally allowed to enlist, he volunteered for the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit made up mostly of second-generation Nisei.

In the fall of 1944, Inouye's unit was sent to the French Vosges Mountains and spent two bloody weeks rescuing a Texas battalion—"The Lost Battalion"—surrounded by German forces. Inouye's valor earned him a promotion to platoon leader, a Bronze Star and a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant.

In April 1945, he led an assault on a heavily defended hill near San Terenzo, Italy. Three German machine guns pinned his unit, and one bullet pierced his abdomen and went out his back, barely missing his spine. Still, he fought, subduing two machine gun nests with grenades. Crawling toward the third, a German rifle grenade shattered his right arm, leaving his final grenade "clenched in a fist that suddenly didn't belong to me anymore." Waving his unit back, he pried it loose, tossed it left-handed and destroyed the third bunker.

He fought on until a bullet in his leg left him unconscious. His mutilated right arm was amputated in a field hospital, without anesthetic. He spent 20 months in Army hospitals and was honorably discharged as a captain in May 1947.

The Army awarded him a Distinguished Service Cross, the second-highest award for valor—not until 2000 was it upgraded to the Medal of Honor—along with the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart with cluster and 12 other medals and citations. For its size and length of service, the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd RCT is considered the most decorated unit in Army history.

And not to dismiss a consequential career in Congress, this is the Dan Inouye we'll remember, the one who found exceptional heroism within himself and gave it selflessly to a nation that didn't appreciate it until years later.

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My Christmas wish

This year I have decided not to make a Christmas wish list to Santa Claus, but to the newborn Baby Jesus. It is time to stop wishing for Santa to bring us things that we know are beyond his powers. So I will send this following wish list to Him and hope that He reads it and will consider some of the items on the list.

You have been born to bring peace, understanding, and love to us in this mortal world. However, after over 2,000 years since Your birth, we seem no closer to these ideals that when You were first born. Why is that? Do we have a gene instilled in us that insists that we do perverse acts against each other? No, I am not blaming You for what we have been during this time. But I am asking You to bring us better understanding of what we must do to live with peace and improvement in our lives. The world is in chaos. Please help!

But my deepest wish is to help the people in the CNMI overcome their problems. Daily we fail to find solutions to the problems that we have created ourselves. Instead we continue to destroy our relationships and become more divided. Neighbor is being pitted against neighbor.

Why do we fail to realize that the problems that besiege us did not simply pop up overnight? They started as minor infractions which we ignored until they have become huge. Let's consider some of them.

When I arrived in 1984 to Saipan, there already were problems with CUC. I recall when I first turned on the faucet the water came out dark brown. Only after a few minutes later did it slowly begin to become clear. Today we still cannot drink the water.

The power was also erratic. Many times it would go off and come back on. Just this past week you and I experienced power outages several times during the night. Our utility rate is the highest of anywhere in the United States and also one of the most unreliable.

Now we have a secret deal for a new power plant that promises us hope. Do any of us believe it or is it more wishful thinking? Baby Jesus, help us to realize that the problems at CUC can be solved if we are truthful and honest with each other and especially with ourselves. Greed and dishonesty will only worsen the problems. Why can't we solve CUC's problems after 29 years (since I have been here) and longer?

I recall seeing our hospital being built. It is a magnificent structure and should be able to take care of most of our citizens' health problems. But alas, it is in a coma and ready to collapse. Doctors and nurses are deserting us. To temporarily help us we have the U.S. military working there. While this is commendable, it is not a solution. Why does this problem continue? Are the solutions beyond our ability to solve?

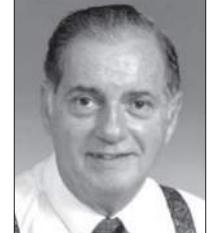
What happened to the Retirement Fund? Didn't anyone see the impending problem when the first non-transfer of employees' money was not made? Why didn't someone speak out? Now that it is in bankruptcy, thousands of people have their retirement dreams shattered. What callous thinking caused this to happen? Didn't this problem begin with the first non-remittance?

Why do we humans keep doing these things to each other daily?

We citizens of the CNMI seem to ignore the fact that things deteriorate if we don't take care of them. We seem to have an attitude that when something is old after years of neglect, we simply throw it away and get a new one. Why don't we try to repair them?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



Next time as you drive by Lower Base, notice what has happened to the huge warehouse that once was the pride of Public Works. After years of neglect it lies in shambles and beyond use. It is better that it be torn down and removed because of the eyesore it presents. In fact take a good look at what has happened to most of the government buildings in Lower Base. What a shame and what a pitiful reflection of our attitude.

No, please don't shout at me that it is the lack of money that has caused these situations to happen. To date, Uncle Sam has given us outright over \$3.8 billion. Add millions more each year. How have we used this huge amount of money?

Let me remark on my favorite project, which has sadly fallen into disarray. I am referring to the Outer Cove Marina. It was built at a cost of \$3.5 million for use as a public marina. Today from neglect of care it has become a shambles. There are no lights at night time for all the tourists that go on dinner cruises. It is totally dark. The only lights are from the buses and cars. It is only a matter of time before a serious accident happens.

Because of no maintenance on the piers, the metal rebars supporting the piers are exposed to the salt water and are fast rusting away. It is only a matter of time before the piers collapse and sink into the water. The land around the piers is fast eroding back into the ocean as the water washes the soil away. Finally take a good look at what has happened to the store as we enter the marina. It is an awful eyesore and sadly deteriorated.

Daily the newspapers print photos of our fellow citizens' proudly gathering trash from the streets of our beautiful island. These volunteers are to be praised. But it is sad that so many of our citizens throw this trash without any thought of how they are trashing our home.

We will be having a new government in a few more weeks. Will they do their job in finishing the work started by the previous Legislature? Or we will be hearing weak excuses for not cleaning house?

We could go on and on, Baby Jesus. The problems are many. But can You help? This is why I am writing to You and not to Santa Claus. Only You can help. Please give us the courage and determination to help ourselves. This is my true and only request for Christmas. Isn't this why it is Your birthday?

No, this is not a complaint letter but a plea for more sense, honesty, respect, trust, and harmony in a split-apart community. Will You help us with Your wisdom and love?

Honestly speaking, despite the many problems facing us, I still love living here and I am sure you, fellow citizens, do also.

A gigantic Merry Christmas to each of you and to your family. It will get better next year. Believe it. And remember to smile!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Happy birthday, Jesus

The cold night in the manger was an added story to the “Jesus” story. But the story of the barefoot kid from Nazareth, historical and mythological, had influenced many, including this one. The subject of the story is life, lived in its fullness in the here-and-now. We receive life as a gift, *l'achaim*,

in the Semitic toast. Theologs call that “incarnate.” The same is unconditionally surrendered in Islam’s *Anshallah*, the incarnate life fully lived to the reality of the Way Life Is (*Yahweh* to the Jews).

A “somebody” at birth and in history, and a “nobody” in the mystery of the universe, Jesus gave it a spin. He lived his 33 years of

For Unto Us, A Personal Christmas Greetings!

a journey from womb to tomb

From all of yesterday, appreciate; to all of tomorrow, anticipate; in all of today, participate. For all, by all means, celebrate!

Jaime Ravelo Vergara (1945-2031) in the name of Jesus the Christ

| Life Stages Levels of Consciousness | Age 0 BIRTH mysteries of origin | From age 17 HOMENEST covenants of location | From age 34 ADULTHOOD adventures of responsiveness | From age 51 VOCATION commitments of creation | From age 68 DEATH celebration of finitude |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| OBJECTIVE (indicative) | INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY <i>Birth and Family</i> | HUMAN PROCREATION <i>Sex and Relationships</i> | PRACTICAL SKILLS <i>Mastering Doing</i> | ANATOMY OF CARE <i>Inclusive Social Vision</i> | TOPOGRAPHY OF SPIRIT <i>Courage to Be</i> |
| REFLECTIVE (subjunctive) | COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD <i>Human niche on planet Earth</i> | DOMESTIC SCIENCE <i>Home Management</i> | SOCIAL EPTITUDE <i>Managing Feelings</i> | COLLEGIAL NETWORKING <i>Strategies of Effectiveness</i> | EMPATHETIC TECHNOLOGIES <i>Practices of Humility</i> |
| INTERPRETIVE (cognitive) | EARTH AND EVOLUTION <i>Physiology and the Universe</i> | HOLISTIC NURTURING <i>Child Raising</i> | ANALYTICAL THINKING <i>Clarifying Thinking</i> | TECHNICAL EXPERTISE <i>Choice of Personal Tasks</i> | CULTURAL HERITAGE <i>Simplicity in Aging</i> |
| DECISIONAL (imperative) | RE-BIRTH AND TRANSFORMATION <i>Consciousness and Change</i> | DYNAMIC SOCIOLOGY <i>Communal Belonging</i> | PLANNING METHOD <i>Anticipating Actions</i> | STRUCTURES OF BELONGING <i>Systems of Efficiency</i> | TRANSPARENT JOURNEY <i>Graciousness in Dying</i> |

Inayeg mauleg na persona ‘12

Siña ha’ guaha listamu tautau siha ni man-oppan na’an niha na sakan. Lau ayeg unu gi hiyuñg ridondun politika ya ta akompara leblota.

Gi bespiran Noche Buena, si Little Dora hu ayeg pot pinadesiña i patgon gi ICU ‘nai ha fanu’ e hit asuntu siha ni debi ta comprende este responsabilidat petsonat gi bandan hinemlo’ esta operasion sistemán hinemlo’ guine. Mamatkilu kulan kinilu ya ha a’yuus todú i manmatu yan ayudun niha gi kuartoña gi ICU guine mientras hananña abiu na ayudu. Ha gomung korasonta i pinadesiña i patgon.

Ginen malañguña ‘nai man-anog man-seriosu siha na probleman hospitat. Deste finatane’ fondu yan hagas maletke siha na problema man-anog kulan acho’ kuraliñg gi sinague’ tasi.

Ayu ‘nai anog haf’ kapasidat hospittata yan disposition man-seriosu siha na chetnot gotpe ‘nai solu hospitat Filipinas yan Hawaii ‘nai siña man-ma-akude.

‘An taya’ fondu, libre i familia kumubre i gastu, manlibre siha chumogue ennau. I punto: gai direchu hau humomlu’. Lau tai direchu hau umobliga i otru ni man-apapase kontribusion tax na u kubre gaston hinemlo’ mu. Asuntun hinemlo’ hagu solu rumesponsasable.

Hana’ chatsagayu’ i sige ha’ ma-umenta mas i numeron daibetes, chetnot korason yan reñihion gi tautau-ta. Makat para u fana’ maseha haye na familia dese metbius yan gastu.

Lau i añghet as Dora yumeñgoñg haf’ debi ta ebalua yan kumoprende gi hilu petsonat na responsabilidat hinemlo’ yan areglon sistema guine. Anaku’ na chalan para ta pokate estake u libianu mona dididi’ i karerata gi bandan hinemlo’. Si Yuus Ma’ase Dora yan Felis Noche Buena para todus!

■ ■ ■

Sensian Integridat

I kabayero ni mama’ asule gi halom disposition asuntun linahayan siempre ha soda’ na makat eksisyon sensian “integridat”. Este na palabra fuetsau na debi un’ unestu. Kumeke ilegña na debi u muebague’ guatu gi tanu’ “unestu”.

Unestu na palabra umafuetas maseha haye na kabayeru na u tunas parehu ha’ gi palabraina yan aksioña. Todu i tiempu debi este i dos palabras u sisihia mona kumu diñga’. Gigon un’ letke pot un’ biae, un’ tutuhon chumo’gue ti mauleg ‘nai uttimoña lotgun hau gi un’ taduñg hoyu ni hagu mismu gumuadog.

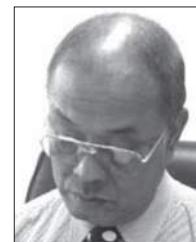
Sifia ha’ sopló hau ginen haf’ na malabidamu ni un’ tampon ñaihon. Lau hoñgeyu’ na tat ulu’ malumot ti kumunanaf huyuñg. Mientras ini’ina i tanu’ ni atdau, maulegña che’chu’ tunas maseha hafa un’ petsige pot asuntun linahayan. Lokue’, maseha makat un’ sañgan i tinas maulegña un’ atotgante gi tinas ke un’ yoguan maisa hau pot mañan kabron yan muron.

■ ■ ■

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

**Sensian Tunas**

Un’ amku’ ginen gai hutnaleru natibu ni diariu madadalalag para i gualoñña. Un’ dia mahoñgu’ dose difirientes klasen choda ni manmakana’ gi fina’ sadigane. Masaha todus lau ni unu umaprubecha i masan aga’ siha.

Finaisen ni lahiña haf’ na tiha na’e’ tautauñas ya uma-apprubacha. Man-oppe i amku’, ‘Ni unuyu’ fumaisen ya mangai pachot para u fañgentos. Ni guahu ti usuhu masan aga’. Lastima’. Deste ayu mona ‘an hafa manesessita ni tautauña man-mamaisen. Ni unabes ni ha ñega i amku’ finaisen nesessidat.

Gi finu’ man-amku’, ‘Maulegña mamaisen ke linaisen’.

■ ■ ■

Estoriata

Hu e’ekuñgog un’ che’luta estoriaña pot humidde na linala’ tautau isla (Pagan). Bonitu finoñña pot usun pution ‘an pueñge kumu riilos yan dinetu’ luseru ni numa’ e señat na esta para manana. I man-sulu’ tasi yan halom tanu’ ha bira siha tatte ya mandeskansa mientras i pumalu man-hanau para i lugat sine’su ‘sino hatdin. Entalu’ pinegsai yan tinanom niha ‘nai makukubre hokog pugas estake u fattu ta’lu i batku ginen Saipan.

Este na eskalera ‘nai un’ soda’ sumen metgot i sensian komunita ‘nai kada unu ha adahe i prohimuña. Taya’ finatane’ gi che’chu komunita ya todus manlistu gi bandan ayudu gi maseha haye na familia dese kumolat babue pat makostate tinala’ sine’su’. Motmu respetu, inagolfie’ yan kooperasion membron komunita.

Hu li’ e este antes gi fina’ lancheria giya Talufo’fo’ gi un’ sainan mame. Abundansia tinanom yan pinegsai ya kada patgon sumaua diariu gi che’chu familia. Pot primet biae ‘nai hu li’ e man-dankulon nika yan mañge’ na katdun manog fresku. Hu chagu’ e katdun patas guaka yan fritada sa’ trabiba guife na tiempu ti hu tutuñg haf’ fritada ni paire yan pinada’ titiyas mai’ es.

Lau i homlu’ yan antau na kinalamten motmut guife na lanchun familia. I finapos modun linala’ natibu umatitisa i sensian hinimidde giya guahu sa huñgan mamoble mañainata lau riku gi mismu tiempu finapos niha yan familia.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



existence in total incarnate freedom and in absolute obedience to the reality of the time and place given him. That style of living we called the role of the Christ is too threatening to many (he was crucified). Nevertheless, there are still those who live the givenness of their life as one, unique, unrepeatable role in human history. Such is the way I learned to live my life, and I do so in the name of Jesus the Christ!

The chart that follows reflects my one thrust into human history. It was my greeting card to my students in Oral English class.

The students were not handed a model to follow. They were asked to chart their own.

So, what’s yours?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remember unfortunate children this Christmas

Empty Vessel says, “Thank you!” to all our supporters for their continuous help toward our work that enables us to reach out to Kenya’s street children, orphans, and families in need. Recently we hosted a Children’s Fun Day event in Kenya and more than 150 kids (including street children) participated. During the event, the children showcased their talents and were involved in sports and music. Through these activities, we saw the children’s potential and abilities and noted how poverty can rob a child of opportunities and hinder hopes and dreams for their future.

Because of our supporters from our Saipan community, we were able to bless the children with snacks, clothing, and school supplies. It was such an enjoyable event for the children that some requested if Empty Vessel could do this again.

It is Empty Vessel Ministry’s hope to help one child at a time to get them off the streets and give them opportunity to go school. Schools in Kenya are not free. For \$30 a month, one can sponsor a street child or orphan through our program. Visit our website at www.emptyvesselministry.org or Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation Facebook. Our number is 483-0162 or 235-2340.

Rose Smith

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation

His constituents’ best interest

To Mr. John S. Pangelinan of Fayetteville (North Carolina), we disagree with you when you encouraged our delegate to Congress to stand down on the extradition of our former attorney general.

At times we disagree with Mr. Kilili’s actions and there are times that we need to support him on issues affecting us. Several times I have been scolded by my elders and our organization members relating to my letters to the editor concerning Mr. Kilili. As I said in the past and I will say it again, it is best to have checks and balances when it comes to our elected officials. To criticize our elected officials at times is healthy because our elected officials need to know what is going on with their constituents. Also, based on our past dealing with Mr. Kilili, he had shown that he will address issues raised by his constituents. Addressing the issue of bringing the former attorney general back to face charges in the CNMI is a sign that Mr. Kilili is for the people of the CNMI.

Remember that Mr. Kilili represents the entire CNMI and going against his own constituents in the case of Mr. Buckingham is not in his best interest.

Segundo Castro

Fresno, California

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 89° ▼ 76° | ▲ 89° ▼ 76° | ▲ 89° ▼ 76° | ▲ 89° ▼ 76° | ▲ 89° ▼ 76° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 88 ▼ 80 |
| Palau | Showers | ▲ 85 ▼ 76 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲ 88 ▼ 78 |
| Chuuk | Mostly Cloudy | ▲ 87 ▼ 82 |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 86 ▼ 81 |
| Kosrae | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 86 ▼ 81 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲ 87 ▼ 81 |

Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Showers | ▲ 73 ▼ 69 |
| Beijing | Sunny | ▲ 24 ▼ 5 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 62 ▼ 51 |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 77 ▼ 70 |
| London | Rain | ▲ 51 ▼ 44 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 60 ▼ 53 |
| Manila | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 84 ▼ 78 |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | ▲ 74 ▼ 67 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 76 ▼ 58 |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 40 ▼ 28 |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 42 ▼ 36 |
| Paris | Cloudy | ▲ 54 ▼ 47 |
| Pusan | Sunny | ▲ 38 ▼ 22 |
| Rome | Fog | ▲ 60 ▼ 49 |
| Salem | Showers | ▲ 43 ▼ 35 |
| San Francisco | Rain | ▲ 56 ▼ 50 |
| Seoul | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 24 ▼ 11 |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 46 ▼ 32 |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 48 ▼ 34 |

Tides

| Sunrise/Sunset | | | Moonrise/Moonset | | |
|----------------|---------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:40 AM | 5:53 PM | Today | 2:42 PM | 2:58 AM |
| Tuesday | 6:40 AM | 5:54 PM | Tuesday | 3:26 PM | 3:47 AM |
| Wednesday | 6:41 AM | 5:55 PM | Wednesday | 4:13 PM | 4:36 AM |
| Thursday | 6:41 AM | 5:55 PM | Thursday | 5:01 PM | 5:25 AM |
| Friday | 6:42 AM | 5:56 PM | Friday | 5:51 PM | 6:13 AM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.

Fax: (670) 235-3740

Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.

The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DEC. 14, 2012

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

| | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|------------|
| UA5070 | 4:35am | 5:25am | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA5062 | 4:40am | 5:30am | 1, 3, 5 |
| UA5068 | 8:25am | 9:15am | Daily |
| UA5074 | 11:10am | 12:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA5076 | 3:10pm | 4:00pm | Daily |
| UA5078 | 6:55pm | 7:45pm | Daily |
| UA5072 | 9:45pm | 10:35pm | Daily |

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

| | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:40am | Daily |
| DL297 | 4:25pm | 7:20pm | Daily |

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

| | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| OZ608 | 3:10am | 6:20am | 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ608 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 3 |

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

| | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|------------------|
| 0Z606 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| 0Z606 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| 0Z604 | 3:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

| | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|----|
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, |
|--------|--------|--------|----|

Annual Mochitsuki Festival welcomes the new year

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hundreds came out to Paseo de Marianas Saturday evening for the annual Mochitsuki Festival, celebrating the incoming New Year with Japanese customs and traditions.

Audiences young and old alike took part in the festivities that included an actual mochitsuki ceremony.

Japanese community members led the festive event, pounding the glutinous rice to make samples of mocha or sticky rice cakes for the public to taste and enjoy.

Mochi masters explained the process, which begins with the overnight soaking of rice, which is then drained and placed in a cloth for steaming.

The cooked rice is then pounded with a wooden mallet until the desired texture is achieved. Afterwards, the main ingredient is placed on a table and divided into small pieces to be prepared with an array of sweet flavors.

Spectators not just witnessed the process but also got to try pounding the dough-like substance, clutching the big wooden mallet as it hit the mochi on the stone mortar.

"It takes a really strong person to do that hard work," said one of the spectators, Aurora Santos Dean.



CLARISSA V. DAVID
Community members line up to get a free sample of the Japanese traditional rice cake called mochi at the Annual Mochitsuki Festival held at Paseo de Marianas on Saturday.

Dean, who was born on Saipan but is now based in Colorado, said the Mochitsuki Festival is a great event to be part of while visiting the island for the holidays.

"I love the food and the pearl shakes," added Dean's mother, Chris Evert-Santos.

Misako Kamata of PDM Promoters, Inc., one of the member groups of Friends of Paseo de Marianas, said they're very pleased with the

big turnout for the New Year celebration the Japanese way.

"I think a lot of people still don't know yet about the Mochitsuki Festival, that's why we make this annual event so they can learn more about the Japanese tradition of making mocha," Kamata told *Saipan Tribune*.

Saturday's event is part of the monthlong "X-mas in the Marianas" celebration sponsored by Friends of Paseo de

Marianas in efforts to give residents and tourists an array of yuletide activities.

The event also featured Japanese performances such as Eisa, a traditional dance in Okinawa presented by Thida Eisa Tai; and festive street dancing by young members of the Saipan Awaodori Team.

The event also featured local food vendors as well as Japanese game and culture stalls.

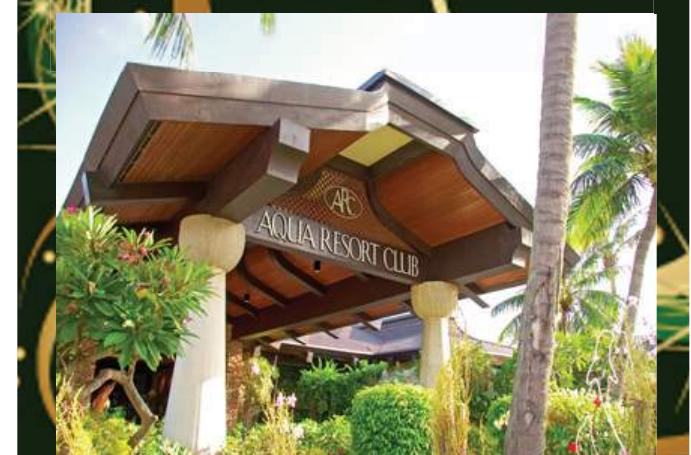
Merry Christmas!

December 24th
Raraina Restaurant
6:00pm to 10:00pm
Course Menu
\$55.00

December 25th
Costa Terrace Restaurant
Eggnog Lunch
11:00am to 2:00pm
\$30.00
(Adult)
\$15.00
(Child - 6 to 11 years old)

Christmas
Seafood Night Buffet
6:00pm to 10:00pm
\$30.00
(Adult)
\$15.00
(Child - 6 to 11 years old)

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May the spirit of Christmas fill your hearts with love, joy, and appreciation of life.

Merry Christmas!

From the management and staff of



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Kilili's flag bill added to Defense Authorization

WASHINGTON, D.C.—H.R. 985, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's bill requiring display of all non-state area flag along with the flags of the 50 states at military events will be part of the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act.

The House and Senate conference committee wrapped up work on the NDAA yesterday, accepting Sablan's language, which the House had approved in May. The conference committee bill now returns to the House and Senate floors for a final vote before being sent to the President for signature.

Sablan's bill, which requires all U.S. Armed Services to display the flags of the five U.S. territories and the District of Columbia at military installations whenever the flags of the 50 states are also displayed, has received significant attention over the last several weeks, as territorial representatives and the District's delegate argued for inclusion in the Defense Authorization.

This week, delegates help a press event at the House Radio and TV Gallery to draw further attention to Sablan's amendment and ensure its inclusion in the conference report for the 2013 Defense bill.

Speaking there, Sablan said that this focus on flag display was not a trivial issue. "The mil-

itary places great significance in insignia, in symbols, in combat pennants and the colors. These ribbons and humble pieces of cloth stand for something. They have deep meaning.

"They are a reminder of all those who served before. They are a reminder of bravery and shared sacrifice. They are a reminder that we are all a part of one nation."

The congressman reminded those in attendance that the ter-

ritories have over 36,000 men and women presently serving in uniform.

Sablan made repeated attempts to get the U.S. military to adopt universal protocols requiring the display of all U.S. jurisdictions' flags at welcome-home ceremonies and similar occasions. Although the U.S. Army was willing to institute this requirement, the other branches were reluctant and leave it to installation com-

manders to decide which men and women are honored by the display of their home flag.

All of the territorial delegates believe that it should not be at the discretion of base commanders to decide which parts of the U.S. are recognized and which are ignored.

The 2013 DAA authorizes \$552.2 billion for base national defense and \$88.5 billion for Overseas Contingencies Operations. Key highlights of this

fifty-first consecutive Defense Authorization:

- 1.7 percent across-the-board pay raise for all members of the uniformed services;
- Endorses the President's plan in Afghanistan to transition lead responsibility for security to the Afghans by mid-2013;
- Effort to provide significant new regulations and procedures for combating and prosecuting sexual assault within the military;
- Requires the Department of

Defense to develop a comprehensive policy on the prevention of suicide among service members; and

■ Establishes cost-sharing rates under the TRICARE pharmacy benefits program and limits annual increases in pharmacy copayments to increases in retiree cost of living adjustments.

A vote on the conference committee bill is expected this week in both chambers of Congress. (PR)

Foremost Saipan donates milk to Salvation Army, Ayuda Network



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

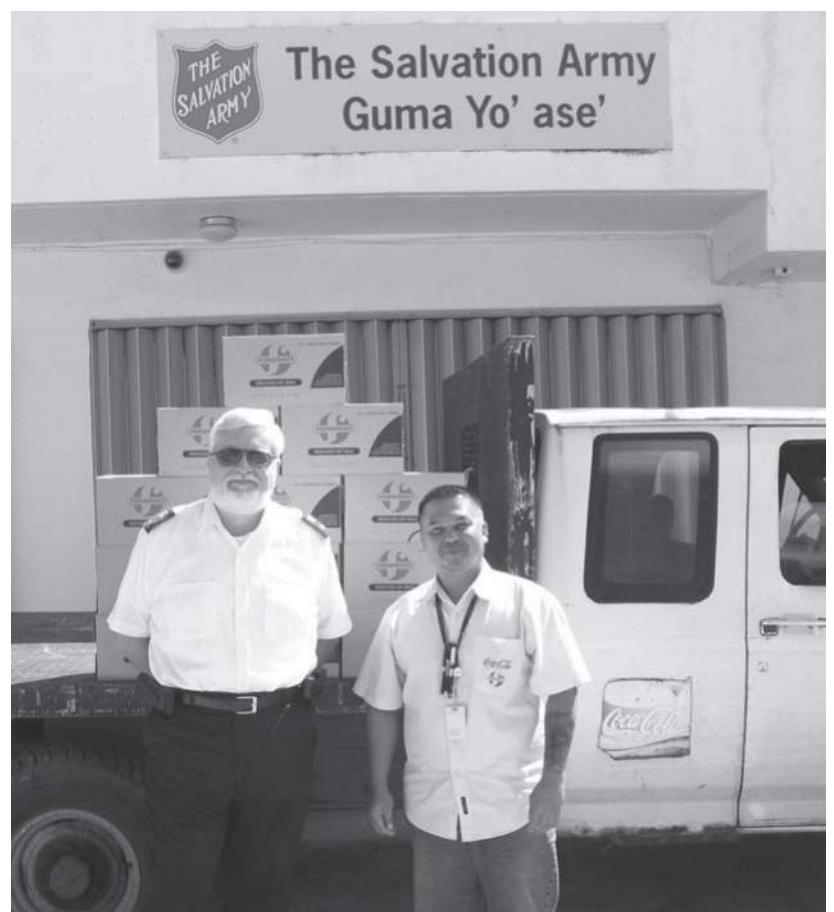
Foremost Foods Saipan donates 60 cases of Foremost Reduced Fat Milk to NMI Salvation Army and Ayuda Network. Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan, presented the charitable institutions with the donation.

In the spirit of community giving, Foremost Foods Saipan has donated 60 cases of Foremost Reduced Fat Milk to Ayuda Network and to Salvation Army. Recognizing that the two charities provide needs-based services to a large part of the community, Foremost chose to support the NMI Salvation Army and Ayuda Network to reach those who rely on their valuable services.

Foremost Reduced Fat Milk were distributed free at the Stress Free Holiday Fair on Dec. 19, 2012, at the Multi-Purpose Center. The event was organized by Ayuda Network.

Diana T. Camacho, Ayuda Network's executive director, said, "Ayuda Network is proud to have partnered with Foremost Foods Saipan, which shares community pride and kinship towards excellence. Through your generosity, we are distributing the Foremost Reduced Fat Milk donation to all participating families at the Stress Free Holiday Fair."

NMI Salvation Army, through its ministry leader, Wayne Gil-



lespie expressed appreciation to the company.

"The Salvation Army is very grateful to Foremost Foods Saipan for this donation of Reduced Fat Milk for our Soup Kitchen and Food Assistance Program. We had run out of milk and this gift comes at a critical time. The children and families we serve will benefit immensely. Foremost is a great corporate citizen in our community and we appreciate all they

do to help us in our mission to assist the people of our islands," Gillespie said.

Foremost Foods Saipan CEO Marcos W. Fong said that the company remains committed to promoting a healthy community. "Foremost has been and continues to be part of our community's lives. Contributing to a fit and healthy lifestyle is one of the best ways to give back to the communities where we do business," Fong said. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Thursday, December 27, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of Saipan Surfrider, LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed construction and operation of a resort hotel, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereto, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

Business

Obama seeks scaled-down ‘fiscal cliff’ agreement

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama has scaled back his ambitions for a sweeping budget bargain with Republicans. Instead, he's calling for a limited measure sufficient to prevent the government from careening off the “fiscal cliff” in January by extending tax cuts for most taxpayers and forestalling a painful set of agency budget cuts.

In a White House appearance Friday, Obama also called on Congress to extend jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed that would otherwise be cut off for 2 million people at the end of the year.

Obama's announcement was a recognition that chances for a larger agreement before year's end have probably collapsed. It also suggested that any chance for a smaller deal may rest in the Senate, particularly after the collapse of a plan by House



President Barack Obama pauses as he speaks to reporters about the fiscal cliff in the Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House in Washington, Friday, Dec. 21, 2012. AP

Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, to permit tax rates to rise on million-dollar-plus incomes.

“In the next few days, I've asked leaders of Congress to work toward a package that prevents a tax hike on middle-

class Americans, protects unemployment insurance for 2 million Americans, and lays the groundwork for further work on both growth and deficit reduction,” Obama said. “That's an achievable goal. That can get

done in 10 days.”

Maybe, maybe not. The latest plan faces uncertainty at best in the sharply divided Senate. GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, who wields great power even in the minority, called Friday for Senate action on a House bill from the summer extending the full menu of Bush-era tax cuts. He promised that it will take GOP votes for anything to clear the Senate, where 60 votes are required to advance most legislation. Democrats control 53 votes.

Boehner, giving the GOP weekly radio address, said, “Of course, hope springs eternal, and I know we have it in us to come together and do the right thing.”

Earlier, Boehner said Obama needs to give more ground to reach an agreement and that both he and Obama

had indicated in a Monday telephone call that their latest offers represented their bottom lines. “How we get there,” he added, “God only knows.”

Congress shut down for Christmas and Obama flew to Hawaii with his family for the holidays. But both men indicated they'd be back in Washington, working to beat the fast-ap-

roaching Jan. 1 deadline with an agreement between Christmas and New Year's.

Obama announced his plans after talking by phone with Boehner and meeting with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who had previously pinned his hopes on an Obama-Boehner agreement and is wary of dealing with McConnell.

Don't be fooled by January pay—higher taxes loom

WASHINGTON (AP)

Workers probably won't feel the full brunt of next year's tax increases in their January paychecks, but don't be fooled by the temporary reprieve.

No matter what Congress does to address the year-end fiscal cliff, it's already too late for employers to accurately withhold income taxes from January paychecks, unless all the current tax rates remain unchanged, which is an unlikely scenario.

Social Security payroll taxes are set to increase on Jan. 1, so workers should immediately feel the squeeze of a 2 percent cut in their take-home pay. But as talks drag on over how to address other year-end tax increases, the Internal Revenue Service has delayed releasing income tax withholding tables for 2013.

As a result, employers are planning to withhold income taxes at the 2012 rates, at least for the first one or two paychecks of the year, said Michael O'Toole of the Ameri-

can Payroll Association.

If employers don't withhold enough taxes in January, they will have to withhold even more taxes later in the year to make up the difference. Otherwise, taxpayers could get hit with big tax bills, and possibly penalties, when they file their 2013 returns.

The tax increases could be steep. If Congress fails to act, workers at every income level face significant tax increases next year as part of the year-end “fiscal cliff.”

A taxpayer making between \$50,000 and \$75,000 would get an average tax increase of \$2,400, according to the Tax Policy Center, a Washington research group. If the worker is paid every two weeks, that's about \$92 a paycheck, on average.

Someone making between \$75,000 and \$100,000 would get a tax increase averaging nearly \$3,700. If the worker is paid every two weeks, that's about \$142 a paycheck.

Christmas comes slowly to austerity-hit Europe

PARIS (AP)—Across Europe, holiday “shoppers” this season are doing more browsing than buying.

Retailers remain hopeful for a last-minute burst of Christmas consumerism, and some governments are encouraging it by allowing stores to open on Sunday. But with economies across the region slowing and unemployment soaring, analysts say holiday spending in Europe is bound to disappoint for the fourth year in a row.

In Rome, some shopkeepers say holiday sales are down 20 percent from last year. In Paris, refurbished second-hand toys are attracting buyers. And

in Spain, which has Europe's highest unemployment rate, some families are contemplating whether to give gifts at all.

As in the U.S., holiday shopping is vital to many businesses: British non-food retailers can make up to 50 percent of their profits in the end-of-year push. In Germany, holiday business accounts for 30 percent of annual toy sales.

But the arc of the holiday shopping seasons is a little different in every country. The Dutch open presents on Dec. 5, the eve of St. Nicholas day and the last night of their “Sinterklaas” celebration. In Spain, many children tear open pres-

ents on Jan. 6, when tradition has it the Three Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus. In Britain, France and most of Europe gifts are exchanged on Dec. 25.

As the 17-country eurozone slips back into recession, this festive season may mark a new normal for Europe, analysts say. Gone are the heady days when every holiday season meant a new record breached for sales. Instead, shops will have to fight it out for shoppers, hunting for bargains and quality and willing to wait for both.

“Every year it comes later,” said Joachim Stoll, who co-owns Leder-Stoll OHG,

a leather and luggage retailer just off the glittering Zeil pedestrian shopping quarter in Frankfurt, Germany. “People wait longer and longer, even after Christmas.”

European retailers are crossing their fingers that a boost will still come, as it did this year for the U.S. There, total sales for the four-day weekend that kicks off the holiday shopping season around Thanksgiving in late November rose 2.7 percent to \$22 billion, compared with the same period a year ago, according to ShopperTrak. Sales since then have fallen 4.4 percent compared with last year, ShopperTrak reported Wednesday.

PACIFIC DRILLING, LTD. A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

ARTICLES OF DISSOLUTION

Pursuant to 4 C.M.C. S4603, PACIFIC DRILLING, LTD., a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Corporation, hereby submits these Articles of Dissolution, setting forth the following information required by statute:

ARTICLE 1. Name of Corporation:
PACIFIC DRILLING, LTD.

ARTICLE 2. Date dissolution
authorized: December
12, 2012

ARTICLE 3. If the dissolution
was approved by the
shareholders.

Number of votes entitled
to cast on the proposal to
dissolve: 200

Number of votes cast for
and against dissolution:
**200 VOTED IN FAVOR
OF DISSOLUTION,
NONE AGAINST**

ARTICLE 4. Effective date of dissolution:
DECEMBER 31, 2012

DATED this 12th day of December, 2012
PACIFIC DRILLING, LTD.
A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

BY: /S/ NAME: RAMA MEDABALMI
ITS: PRESIDENT

Priscilla Torres Dela Cruz
Edward Camacho Dela Cruz
P.O. Box 502597
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 288-2654

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| In Re The Matter | FCD GU |
| Of The Petition To | CIVIL ACTION |
| Appoint General | NO. 12-0591 |
| Guardianship For: | |
| Elijah Edward | NOTICE OF |
| Torres Dela Cruz, | HEARING |
| Minor Child | |
| By: | |
| Priscilla Torres | |
| Dela Cruz & | |
| Edward Camacho | |
| Dela Cruz, | |
| Petitioners. | |

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 3, 2013, at 10:30 am in Courtroom 205, before Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

Dated this 21st day of December, 2012.

Clerk of Court
/S/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of Executive Director
INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-13-011
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF MATERIALS FOR ISLAND WIDE WATERLINE REPAIRS, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-13-011, supply and delivery of materials for island wide waterline repairs, Saipan, CNMI” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 08, 2013, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NMC13-001

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposal from qualified firms as an “Independent Auditor” to perform a financial and compliance audit for the College.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. I, 2nd Floor, commencing Tuesday, December 04, 2012, between the hours of 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Proposal Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., January 4th, 2013, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. I, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anitac@nmcnet.edu).

Discussion may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and/or to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole discretion, to do so will be in the best interest of the College. All proposals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ David J. Attao
Dean of Administration

Nation

Urban advocates say new gun control talk overdue

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER

For years, voices have cried in the urban wilderness: We need to talk about gun control.

Yet the guns blazed on.

It took a small-town slaughter for gun control to become a political priority. Now, decades' worth of big-city arguments against easy access to guns are finally being heard, because an unstable young man invaded an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., with a military-style assault rifle and 30-bullet magazines. Twenty young children

and six adults were slain.

President Barack Obama called the tragedy a "wake-up call." Vice President Joe Biden met Thursday with Obama's cabinet and law-enforcement officers from around the country to launch a task force on reducing gun violence. Lawmakers who have long resisted gun control are saying something must be done.

Such action is energizing those who have sought to reduce urban gun violence. Donations are up in some places; other leaders have been working overtime due to this unprec-

Conn. town in mourning inundated with gifts, money

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP)—Newtown's children were showered with gifts Saturday—tens of thousands of teddy bears, Barbie dolls, soccer balls and board games—and those are only some of the tokens of support from around the world for the town in mourning.

Just a little over a week ago, 20 children and six school employees were gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Twenty-year-old Adam Lanza killed his mother, attacked the school, then killed himself. Police don't know what set off the massacre.

Days before Christmas, funerals were still being held Saturday, the last of those whose schedules were made public, according to the Connecticut Funeral Directors Association. A service was held in Utah for 6-year-old Emilie Parker. Others were held in Connecticut

for Josephine Gay, 7, and Ana Marquez-Greene, 6.

All of Newtown's children were invited to Edmond Town Hall, where they could choose a toy. Bobbi Veatch, who was fielding donations at the building, reflected on the outpouring of gifts from toy stores, organizations and individuals around the world.

"It's their way of grieving," Veatch said. "They say, 'I feel so bad, I just want to do something to reach out.' That's why we accommodate everybody we can."

The United Way of Western Connecticut said the official fund for donations had \$2.8 million in it on Saturday. Others sent envelopes stuffed with cash to pay for coffee at the general store, and a shipment of cupcakes arrived from a gourmet bakery in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The Postal Service reported

The NRA's deep pockets

How the National Rifle Association has outspent the leading pro-gun control group, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence:

2012 campaign contributions



ended moment.

The moment also is causing some to reflect on the sudden change of heart. Why now?

Why weren't we moved to act by the killing of so many other children, albeit one by one, in urban areas?

a six-fold increase in mail in the town and set up a unique post office box to handle it. The parcels come decorated with rainbows and hearts drawn by schoolchildren.

Some letters arrived in packs of 26 identical envelopes—one for each family of the children and staff killed or addressed to the "First Responders" or just "The People of Newtown." One card arrived from Georgia addressed to "The families of 6 amazing women and 20 beloved angels." Many contained checks.

"This is just the proof of the love that's in this country," Postmaster Cathy Zieff said.

Peter Leone said he was busy making deli sandwiches and working the register at his Newtown General Store when he got a phone call from Alaska. It was a woman who wanted to give him her credit card number.

"She said, 'I'm paying for

the next \$500 of food that goes out your door,'" Leone said. "About a half hour later another gentleman called, I think from the West Coast, and he did the same thing for \$2,000."

At the town hall building, the basement resembled a toy store, with piles of stuffed penguins, dolls, games, and other fun gifts. All the toys were inspected and examined by bomb-sniffing dogs before being sorted and put on card tables. The children could choose whatever they wanted.

Jugglers entertained the children, a dunk tank was set up outside and the crowd of several hundred parents and children sang an enthusiastic rendition of "Happy Birthday" to one child. A man dressed as Santa Claus was in attendance, and high school students were offering arts and crafts such as face painting and caricatures.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

Accounting and Circulations Manager

College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Graphic Designer (3)

Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Advertising Sales Agent

Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, December 31, 2012.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

Reporter (3)

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Advertising Sales Manager

Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 5 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is a must. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Circulations Coordinator

Associates degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, January 02, 2013.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Certainly, Newtown is a special case, 6- and 7-year-olds riddled with bullets inside the sanctuary of a classroom. Even in a nation rife with violence, where there have been three other mass slayings since July and millions enjoy virtual killing via video games, the nature of this tragedy is shocking.

But still: "There's a lot of talk now about we have to protect our children. We have to protect all of our children, not just the ones living in the suburbs," said Tammerlin Drummond, a columnist for the Oakland Tribune.

In her column Monday, Drummond wrote about 7-year-old Heaven Sutton of Chicago, who was standing next to her mother selling candy when she was killed in the crossfire of a gang shootout. Also in Chicago, which has been plagued by a recent spike in gun violence: 6-year-old Aaliyah Shell was caught in a drive-by while standing on her front porch; and 13-year-old Tyquan Tyler was killed when a someone in a car shot into a group of youths outside a party.

Wrote Drummond: "It has taken the murders of 20 babies and six adults in an upper-middle class neighborhood in Connecticut to achieve what thousands of gun fatalities in urban communities all over this country could not."

So again: What took so long? The answers are complicated by many factors: resignation to urban violence, even among some of those who live there; the assumption that cities are danger-

ous and small towns safe; the idea that some urban victims place themselves in harm's way.

In March, the Children's Defense Fund issued a report titled "Protect Children, Not Guns 2012." It analyzed the latest federal data and counted 299 children under age 10 killed by guns in 2008 and 2009. That figure included 173 preschool-age children. Black children and teens accounted for 45 percent of all child and teen gun deaths, even though they were only 15 percent of the child/teen population.

"Every child's life is sacred and it is long past time that we protect it," said CDF president Marian Wright Edelman in the report.

It got almost no press coverage—until nine months later, when Newtown happened.

Tim Stevens, founder and chairman of the Black Political Empowerment Project in Pittsburgh, has been focusing on urban gun violence since 2007, when he said Pennsylvania was declared the worst state for black-on-black violence.

In the days since the Newtown killings, Stevens has felt sadness, emotional turmoil—and a bit of vindication at the new movement on gun control.

Stevens said America still would have been spurred to action if the Newtown victims had been black. He recalled the way that the Birmingham, Ala., church bombing during the civil rights movement, which killed four black girls, galvanized the nation in 1963.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hepatitis C tests continue after NH tech's arrest

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Hospitals across the country recommended hepatitis C testing for about 7,900 patients last summer after a traveling medical worker was accused of stealing drugs and infecting patients with tainted syringes in New Hampshire. But five months later, nearly half of those who were possibly exposed to the liver-destroying disease in other states have yet to be tested. Described by prosecutors as a "serial infector," David Kwiatkowski is accused of stealing syringes of the powerful painkiller fentanyl from the cardiac catheterization lab at New Hampshire's Exeter Hospital and replacing them with saline-filled syringes tainted with his own blood. In jail since his arrest in July, he pleaded not guilty to 14 federal drug charges earlier this month and is expected to go to trial next fall. Before April 2001, when he was hired in New Hampshire, Kwiatkowski worked as a traveling cardiac technologist in 18 hospitals in

seven states, moving from job to job—despite being fired twice over allegations of drug use and theft.

Motive sought in Pa. slayings of 3; gunman killed

HOLLIDAYSBURG, Pa. (AP)—The shooting of a man who went on a rampage in central Pennsylvania, killing two neighbors and a third person before wounding three state troopers during a gunbattle, was a justifiable homicide, authorities ruled Saturday. Investigators are still trying to figure out what set off the gunman, identified as 44-year-old Jeffrey Lee Michael of Geeseytown, a tiny village about 70 miles west of Harrisburg, the state capital. "We're not sure of the motive. We'll be trying to find out by talking to people who knew him, see if he gave any indication," Blair County District Attorney Richard Consiglio said of the violence, which began Friday morning in Frankstown Township and spanned five separate crime scenes across a 1.5-mile area.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

NKorean leader calls for more powerful rockets

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for the development of more powerful rockets after last week's successful launch of a satellite into space. The North's official media said Saturday that Kim made the call at a banquet for rocket scientists Friday in Pyongyang. The Dec. 12 launch of a long-range rocket put the country's first satellite in orbit. The United States, South Korea and others have condemned the launch as a test of ballistic missile technology banned under U.N. Security Council resolutions. Kim had already called for sending more scientific satellites into space on the day of the launch. But his speech on Friday marks the first time he is explicitly calling for the advancement of his country's long-range rocket program.

Philippines passes law on enforced disappearances

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III has signed a law imposing up to life imprisonment for state agents convicted of being involved in enforced disappearances, the first major human rights legislation under his nearly

3-year-old government. Aquino signed the law late Friday, two months after it was passed by Congress, presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said. The human rights group Karapatan says more than 1,000 political activists and suspected supporters have disappeared since the 1972-1986 Ferdinand Marcos dictatorship, including more than 200 under Aquino's predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. It has documented 12 cases of enforced disappearance since 2010 under Aquino. U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said the new law is the first to criminalize enforced disappearances in Asia and challenged Aquino to "move quickly to enforce" it. "Effective enforcement of this new law by the Philippine government will deter enforced disappearances and address the deep-seated problem of impunity for human rights abusers," Brad Adams, the group's director for Asia, said in a statement.

Emperor turns 79, concerned about aging Japan

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Emperor Akihito, celebrating his 79th birthday, says he's concerned about the country's aging population. As he marked his birthday Sunday, Akihito sympathized with the elderly in the country's snowy northern region who are facing their second win-

ter since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami devastated the area. Akihito and Empress Michiko spent nearly two months last year visiting disaster evacuees. Akihito also said his recovery from heart bypass surgery last February has taught him that exercise is important for the elderly to stay fit. He also acknowledged becoming more prone to tripping in recent years while hiking.

South Koreans light giant border Christmas tree

GIMPO, South Korea (AP)—South Koreans have lit a Christmas tree-shaped tower near the tense border with North Korea for the first time in two years following North Korea's rocket launch. Seoul's Defense Ministry said Sunday that it allowed Christian groups to light the massive steel tower Saturday. It's to stay lit until Jan. 2. Pyongyang views the tower as propaganda warfare, though it has not yet responded to this year's lighting. The lighting came 10 days after North Korea placed a satellite into orbit aboard a long-range rocket. South Korea and the U.S. say the launch was a test of banned missile technology. The tree wasn't lit last year after officials asked Christians to refrain from doing so to avoid tension following the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il last December.

L&T Group of Companies is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

Management Accountant (2)

College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Engineering Manager

Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer

Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

IT Manager

College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician

Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer

Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (2)

Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Accountant (3)

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Legal Secretary (2)

Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Accounting Manager

College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software.

Network Administration Manager

Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Housekeeper (5)

High school diploma or GED Certificate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

Administrative Assistant (5)

Associate's Degree. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Business Operations Manager

Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management and building maintenance. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic

Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

Electrician

High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (12)

High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities. Must be able to work flexible hours. Can work outdoors.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, January 02, 2013.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

| | |
|---|--|
| OPEN DATE: December 20, 2012 | POSITION: Front Desk Clerk |
| CLOSE DATE: December 27, 2012 | SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable |
| Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean Languages. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk or concierge services strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skill, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile. | |
| OPEN DATE: December 20, 2012 | POSITION: Lifeguard (Part-Time & Full Time) |
| CLOSE DATE: December 27, 2012 | SALARY: Minimum Wage |
| Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality. | |
| OPEN DATE: December 20, 2012 | POSITION: Bell Hop (Part-Time) |
| CLOSE DATE: December 27, 2012 | SALARY: Minimum Wage |
| Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Must have friendly and outgoing personality. Some experience in Customer Service preferred. | |
| OPEN DATE: December 20, 2012 | POSITION: Server (Part-Time) |
| CLOSE DATE: December 27, 2012 | SALARY: Minimum Wage |
| Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality, excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude. | |
| OPEN DATE: December 20, 2012 | POSITION: Cook (Chinese/Western/Japanese/Korean) |
| CLOSE DATE: December 27, 2012 | SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable |
| Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in culinary experience. Applicants with formal training / education in culinary arts strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment. | |
| OPEN DATE: December 20, 2012 | POSITION: Power Plant Operator |
| CLOSE DATE: December 27, 2012 | SALARY: Minimum Wage/Negotiable |
| Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Formal electrician education or training highly preferred. Formal Training in Mechanical repair / engineering highly preferred. | |
| OPEN DATE: December 20, 2012 | POSITION: Landscaper/Pool Attendant |
| CLOSE DATE: December 27, 2012 | SALARY: Minimum Wage |
| Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in landscaping preferred. | |
| OPEN DATE: December 20, 2012 | POSITION: Kids College Attendant |
| CLOSE DATE: December 27, 2012 | SALARY: Minimum Wage |
| Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must enjoy and be comfortable interacting with young children. Cheerful and outgoing personality highly preferred. | |

For more information, please contact Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 576/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

World

Egypt's draft charter gets 'yes' majority in vote

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Islamist-backed constitution received a "yes" majority in a final round of voting on a referendum that saw a low voter turnout, but the deep divisions it has opened up threaten to fuel continued turmoil.

Passage is a victory for Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, but a costly one. The bruising battle over the past month stripped away hope that the long-awaited constitution would bring a national consensus on the path Egypt will take after shedding its autocratic ruler Hosni Mubarak nearly two years ago.

Instead, Morsi disillusioned many non-Islamists who had once backed him and has become more reliant on his core support in the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists. Hardliners in his camp are determined to implement provisions for stricter rule by Islamic law in the charter, which is likely to further fuel divisions.

Saturday's voting in 17 of Egypt's 27 provinces was the second and final round of the referendum. Preliminary results released early Sunday by Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood showed that 71.4 percent of those who voted Saturday said "yes" after 95.5 percent of the ballots were counted. Only



An Egyptian woman casts her vote during the second round of a referendum on a disputed constitution drafted by Islamist supporters of President Mohammed Morsi in Fayoum, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of Cairo, Egypt.

about eight million of the 25 million Egyptians eligible to vote—a turnout of about 30 percent—cast their ballots. The Brotherhood has accurately predicted election results in the past by tallying results provided by its representatives at polling centers.

In the first round of voting, about 56 percent said "yes" to the charter. The turnout then was

about 32 percent.

The results of the two rounds mean the referendum was approved by about 63 percent.

Morsi's liberal and secular opposition now faces the task of trying to organize the significant portion of the population angered by what it sees as attempts by Morsi and the Brotherhood to gain a lock on political power.

The main opposition group, the National Salvation Front, said it would now start rallying for elections for the lawmaking, lower house of parliament, expected early next year.

"We feel more empowered because of the referendum. We proved that at least we are half of society (that) doesn't approve of all this. We will build on it,"

the Front's spokesman, Khaled Daoud, said. Still, he said, there was "no appetite" at the moment for further street protests.

The new constitution would come into effect once official results are announced, expected in several days. When they are, Morsi is expected to call for the election of parliament's lawmaking, lower chamber no more than two months later.

In a sign of disarray in Morsi's administration, his vice president and—possibly—the central bank governor resigned during Saturday's voting. Vice President Mahmoud Mekki's resignation had been expected since his post is eliminated under the new constitution. But its hasty submission even before the charter has been sealed and his own resignation statement suggested it was linked to Morsi's policies.

"I have realized a while ago that the nature of politics don't suit my professional background as a judge," his resignation letter, read on state TV, said. Mekki said he had first submitted his resignation last month but events forced him to stay on.

The status of Central Bank Governor Farouq el-Oqdah was murkier. State TV first reported his resignation, then soon after reported the Cabinet denied he has stepped down in a possible sign

of confusion. El-Oqdah, in his post since 2003, has reportedly been seeking to step down but the administration was trying to convince him to stay on.

The confusion over el-Oqdah's status comes at a time when the government is eager to show some stability in the economy as the Egyptian pound has been sliding and a much-needed \$4.8 billion loan from the IMF has been postponed.

Over the past month, seven of Morsi's 17 top advisers and the one Christian among his top four aides resigned. Like Mekki, they said they had never been consulted in advance on any of the president's moves, including his Nov. 22 decrees, since rescinded, that granted himself near absolute powers.

Those decrees sparked large street protests by hundreds of thousands around the country, bringing counter-rallies by Islamists. The turmoil was further fueled with a Constituent Assembly almost entirely made up of Islamists finalized the constitution draft in the dead of night amid a boycott by liberals and Christians.

Rallies turned violent. Brotherhood offices were attacked, and Islamists attacked an opposition sit-in outside the presidential palace in Cairo leading to clashes that left 10 dead.

Pope pardons ex-butler who stole, leaked documents

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI granted his former butler a Christmas pardon Saturday, forgiving him in person during a jailhouse meeting for stealing and leaking his private papers in one of the gravest Vatican security breaches in recent times.

After the 15-minute meeting, Paolo Gabriele was freed and returned to his Vatican City apartment where he lives with his wife and three children. The Vatican said he couldn't continue living or working in the Vatican, but said it would find him housing and a job elsewhere soon.

"This is a paternal gesture toward someone with whom the pope for many years shared daily life," according to a statement from the Vatican secretariat of state.

The pardon closes a painful and embarrassing chapter for the Vatican, capping a sensational, Hollywood-like scandal that exposed power struggles, intrigue and allegations of corruption and homosexual liaisons in the highest levels of the Catholic Church.

Gabriele, 46, was arrested May 23 after Vatican police found what they called an "enormous" stash of papal documents in his Vatican City apartment. He was convicted of aggravated theft by a Vatican tribunal on Oct. 6 and has been serving his 18-month sentence

Russia says it won't host Assad but others welcome

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's foreign minister says Moscow would welcome any country's offer of a safe haven to Syrian President Bashar Assad, but underlined that Moscow itself has no intention of giving him shelter if he steps down.

Russia has repeatedly used its veto right along with China at the U.N. Security Council to protect its old ally from international sanctions, but it has increasingly sought to distance itself from Assad.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters late Friday that countries in the region he wouldn't name publicly had asked Russia to convey their of-

fer of a safe passage to Assad. He said that Russia responded by telling them to go directly to Assad: "We replied: 'What do we have to do with it? If you have such plans, you go straight to him.'"

Asked if Moscow could offer a refuge to Assad, Lavrov responded that "Russia has publicly said that it doesn't invite President Assad."

"If there is anyone willing to provide him guarantees, they are welcome!" Lavrov told reporters on board a plane returning from Brussels where he attended a Russia-EU summit. "We would be the first to cross ourselves and say: 'Thank God, the carnage is over! If it indeed

U.S. intelligence says the re-

gime may be readying chemical weapons and could be desperate enough to use them. Both Israel and the U.S. have also expressed concerns they could fall into militant hands if the regime crumbles.

Lavrov gave no indication that Moscow could change its opposition to sanctions against Assad. He assailed the West for failing to persuade the opposition to sit down for peace talks with the government, saying that "the Syrian president's head is more important for them than saving human lives."

Lavrov added that U.N. peace envoy for Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, would visit Moscow for talks before the year's end.

yearned to win so they could buy a small apartment by the beach or a new car. Now people said they needed money just to get by, or to avoid being evicted from their homes.

Though ticket sales were down 8.3 percent on last year, according to the National Lottery, in the days preceding the draw hundreds of people lined up to buy tickets outside outlets that have sold winning tickets before.

Dolores Perez and Teresa Palacio, two lottery outlet workers in north Madrid who sold a top-prize ticket celebrated with sparkling wine as curious neighbors gathered. The fortunate winner had yet to make an appearance.

Hurting Spaniards celebrate Christmas lottery wins

MADRID (AP)—Winners of Spain's cherished Christmas lottery—the world's richest—celebrated Saturday in more than a dozen locations where the top lucky tickets were sold, a moment of uplift for a country enduring another brutal year of economic hardship.

The lottery sprinkled a treasure chest of (EURO)2.5 billion (\$3.3 billion) in prize money

around the country. Champagne corks popped and festive cheer broke out in 15 towns or cities where tickets yielding the maximum prize of (EURO)400,000 (\$530,000), known as "El Gordo" ("The Fat One,") had been bought.

Unlike lotteries that generate a few big winners, Spain's version—now celebrating its

200th anniversary—has always shared the wealth more evenly instead of concentrating on vast jackpots, so thousands of tickets yield some kind of return.

Almost all of Spain's 46 million inhabitants traditionally watch at least some part of the live TV coverage showing school children singing out winning numbers for the lottery.

It is so popular that frequently three (EURO)20 (\$26) tickets are sold for every Spaniard and many consider lottery day as the unofficial kickoff of the holiday season.

Before Spain's property-led economic boom collapsed in 2008 ticket buyers often

in the Vatican police barracks.

He told Vatican investigators he gave the documents to Italian journalist Gianluigi Nuzzi because he thought the 85-year-old pope wasn't being informed of the "evil and corruption" in the Vatican and thought that exposing it publicly would put the church back on the right track.

During the trial, Gabriele testified that he loved the pope "as a son loves his father" and said he never meant to hurt the pontiff or the church. A photograph taken during the meeting Saturday—the first between Benedict and his once trusted butler since his arrest—showed Gabriele dressed in his typical dark gray suit, smiling.

The publication of the leaked documents, first on Italian television then in Nuzzi's book "His Holiness: Pope Benedict XVI's Secret Papers" convulsed the Vatican all year, a devastating betrayal of the pope from within his papal family that exposed the unseemly side of the Catholic Church's governance.

The papal pardon had been widely expected before Christmas, and the jailhouse meeting Benedict used to personally deliver it recalled the image of Pope John Paul II visiting Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish gunman who shot him in 1981, while he served his sentence in an Italian prison.

Health & Fitness

Predicting who's at risk for violence isn't easy

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—It happened after Columbine, Virginia Tech, Aurora, Colo., and now Sandy Hook: People figure there surely were signs of impending violence. But experts say predicting who will be the next mass shooter is virtually impossible—partly because as commonplace as these calamities seem, they are relatively rare crimes.

Still, a combination of risk factors in troubled kids or adults including drug use and easy access to guns can increase the likelihood of violence, experts say.

But warning signs “only become crystal clear in the aftermath,” said James Alan Fox, a Northeastern University criminology professor who has studied and written about mass killings.

“They’re yellow flags. They only become red flags once the blood is spilled,” he said.

Whether 20-year-old Adam Lanza, who used his mother’s guns to kill her and then 20 children and six adults at their Connecticut school, made any hints about his plans isn’t publicly known.

Fox said that sometimes, in the days, weeks or months preceding their crimes, mass murderers voice threats, or hints, either verbally or in writing, things like “don’t come to school tomorrow,” or “they’re going to be sorry for mistreating me.” Some prepare by target practicing, and plan their clothing “as well as their arsenal.” (Police said Lanza went to shooting ranges with his mother in the past but not in the last six months.)

Although words might indicate a grudge, they don’t necessarily mean violence will follow. And, of course, most who threaten never act, Fox said.

Even so, experts say threats of violence from troubled teens and young adults should be taken seriously and parents should attempt to get them a mental health evaluation and treatment if needed.

“In general, the police are unlikely to be able to do anything unless and until a crime has been committed,” said Dr. Paul Appelbaum, a Columbia University professor of psychiatry, medicine and law. “Calling the police to confront a troubled teen has often led to tragedy.”

The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry says violent behavior should not be dismissed as “just a phase they’re going through.”

In guidelines for families, the academy lists several risk factors for violence, including:

- Previous violent or aggressive behavior
- Being a victim of physical or sexual abuse
- Guns in the home



Parents leave a staging area after being reunited with their children following a shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. where authorities say a gunman opened fire, leaving 27 people dead, including 20 children, Friday, Dec. 14, 2012.

- Use of drugs or alcohol
- Brain damage from a head injury

Those with several of these risk factors should be evaluated by a mental health expert if they also show certain behaviors, including intense anger, frequent temper outbursts, extreme irritability or impulsiveness, the academy says. They may be more likely than others to become violent, although that doesn’t mean they’re at risk for

the kind of violence that happened in Newtown, Conn.

Lanza, the Connecticut shooter, was socially withdrawn and awkward, and has been said to have had Asperger’s disorder, a mild form of autism that has no clear connection with violence.

Autism experts and advocacy groups have complained that Asperger’s is being unfairly blamed for the shootings, and say people with the disorder are much more likely to be victims of bullying

and violence by others.

According to a research review published this year in Annals of General Psychiatry, most people with Asperger’s who commit violent crimes have serious, often undiagnosed mental problems. That includes bipolar disorder, depression and personality disorders. It’s not publicly known if Lanza had any of

these, which in severe cases can include delusions and other psychotic symptoms.

Young adulthood is when psychotic illnesses typically emerge, and Appelbaum said there are several signs that a troubled teen or young adult might be heading in that direction: isolating themselves from friends and peers, spending long periods alone in their rooms, plummeting grades if they’re still in school and expressing disturbing thoughts or fears that others are trying to hurt them.

Appelbaum said the most agonizing calls he gets are from parents whose children are descending into severe mental illness but who deny they are sick and refuse to go for treatment.

And in the case of adults, forcing them into treatment is difficult and dependent on laws that vary by state.

All states have laws that allow some form of court-ordered treatment, typically in a hospital for people considered a danger to themselves or others. Connecticut is among a handful with no option for court-ordered treatment

in a less restrictive community setting, said Kristina Ragosta, an attorney with the Treatment Advocacy Center, a national group that advocates better access to mental health treatment.

Lanza’s medical records haven’t been publicly disclosed and authorities haven’t said if it is known what type of treatment his family may have sought for him. Lanza killed himself at the school.

Jennifer Hoff of Mission Viejo, Calif. has a 19-year-old bipolar son who has had hallucinations,

delusions and violent behavior for years. When he was younger and threatened to harm himself, she’d call 911 and leave the door unlocked for paramedics, who’d take him to a hospital for inpatient mental care.

Now that he’s an adult, she said he has refused medication, left home, and authorities have indicated he can’t be forced into treatment unless he harms himself—or commits a violent crime and is imprisoned. Hoff thinks prison is where he’s headed—he’s in jail, charged in an unarmed bank robbery.

Personal Trainer

Fixing a flat bicycle tire

Being able to fix a flat bike tire is as liberating a skill as learning how to ride the bike in the first place.

Must-have equipment

- Spare tube that fits your tires
- Pump that fits tube’s valve
- Two plastic or metal tire levers

Two types of valves

Schrader Like a car’s Presta Thinner

Basic steps

- 1 Deflate tube completely
- 2 Use levers to pry one side of tire over wheel rim, first in one spot, then all the way around
- 3 Remove tube; put in new tube and inflate it slightly
- 4 Carefully squeeze tire back over edge of wheel without pinching tube
- 5 Reinflate tire until it feels hard

2 Practice first

Try doing it once; it becomes easier after you have done it a few times

Tire Rim Deflated tube

Source: Bicycling magazine
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap

© 2012 MCT

In Celebration of His New Life

Antonio Castro Dela Cruz

Lovingly known as “Ton Apigigi”

May 26, 1966 - December 16, 2012

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Mother: †Maria Santos Castro Dela Cruz
Father: †Manuel Tenorio Dela Cruz

Father-In-Law: David E. Castro
Brother-In-Law: †Pedro James Toves & Antonio T. Torres
Sister-In-Law: †Victorina I. Castro

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Common-Law Wife: Jacinta Iba Castro
Children: Lester Anthony & Norma D.L.C. Castro
Kolani Jess & Plumeria A. Castro/Children
Bobby Joseph (BJ) Castro

He is also survived by his:

Mother-in-Law: Maria (Sumiko) Iba Castro
Brother, Sisters and in-Law: Lynda D.L.C. Toves
Connie D.L.C. Torres/Children/Grandchildren
Annie C. Dela Cruz & Roy Ichihara/Children/Grandchildren
Josephine D.L.C. & Fred G.A.
Ramon C. & Isabellita Dela Cruz/Children
†Victorina I. Castro/Children/Grandchildren
David I. & Susan R. Castro/Children
Lillian I. Castro/Daughter
Raymond I. Castro & Eba Charfauros/Children

He will be greatly missed by numerous aunties, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated every morning at 5:00 a.m. at Santa Soledad Church, Kristo Rai Church and San Antonio Church.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, December 26, 2012. His remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 8:00 a.m. for viewing and last respects, Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in Prayers

Si Yuus Ma'e - Thank you

The Family

Life & Style

Ashton Kutcher files for divorce from Demi Moore

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ashton Kutcher filed court papers Friday to end his seven-year marriage to actress Demi Moore.

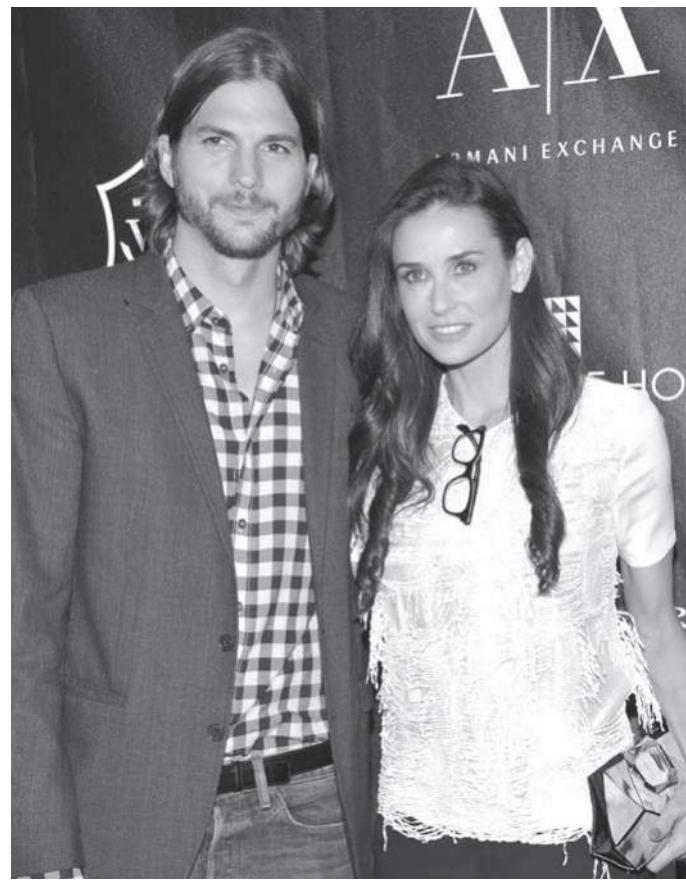
The actor's divorce petition cites irreconcilable differences and does not list a date that the couple separated. Moore announced last year that she was ending her marriage to the actor 15 years her junior, but she never filed a petition.

Kutcher's filing does not indicate that the couple has a prenuptial agreement. The filing states Kutcher signed the document Friday, hours before it was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court.

Kutcher and Moore married in September 2005 and until recently kept their relationship very public, communicating with each other and fans on the social networking site Twitter. After their breakup, Moore changed her name on the site from (at)mrskutcher to (at)justdemi.

Kutcher stars on CBS' "Two and a Half Men."

Messages sent to Kutcher's



In this June 9, 2011 file photo, actors Ashton Kutcher and Demi Moore attend the first annual Stephan Weiss Apple Awards at the Urban Zen Center in New York.

China's airing of 'V for Vendetta' stuns viewers

BEIJING (AP)—Television audiences across China watched an anarchist antihero rebel against a totalitarian government and persuade the people to rule themselves. Soon the Internet was crackling with quotes of "V for Vendetta's" famous line: "People should not be afraid of their governments. Governments should be afraid of their people."

The airing of the movie Friday night on China Central Television stunned viewers and raised hopes that China is loosening censorship.

"V for Vendetta" never appeared in Chinese theaters, but it is unclear whether it was ever banned. An article on the Communist Party's People's Daily website says it was previously prohibited from broadcast, but the spokesman for the agency that approves movies said he was not aware of any ban.

Some commentators and bloggers think the broadcast could be CCTV producers pushing the envelope of censorship, or another sign that the ruling Communist Party's newly installed leader, Xi Jinping, is serious about reform.

"Oh God, CCTV unexpectedly put out 'V for Vendetta.' I had always believed that film was banned in China!" media commentator Shen Chen wrote on the popular Twitter-like Sina Weibo service, where he has over 350,000 followers.

Zhang Ming, a supervisor at a real estate company, asked on Weibo: "For the first time CCTV-6 aired 'V for Vendetta,' what to think, is the reform being deepened?"

swerved the phone at movie channel CCTV-6. "We also didn't anticipate such a big reaction."

The woman, who only gave her surname, Yang, said she would pass on questions to her supervisor, which weren't answered.

The spokesman for the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television said he had noticed the online reaction to the broadcast. "I've not heard of any ban on this movie," Wu Baoan said Thursday.

The film is available on video-on-demand platforms in China, where movie content also needs to be approved by authorities.

A political scientist at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences who used to work for CCTV said the film might have approval, or it could have been CCTV's own decision to broadcast it.

"Every media outlet knows there is a ceiling above their head," said Liu Shanying. "Sometimes we will work under the ceiling and avoid touching it. But sometimes we have a few brave ones who want to reach that ceiling and even express their discontent over the censor system."

"It is very possible that CCTV decided by itself" to broadcast the film, Liu said. If so, he added, it would have been "due to a gut feeling that China's film censorship will be loosened or reformed."

"V for Vendetta" was released in the United States in 2005 and around the world in 2006. China has a yearly quota on the numbers of foreign movies that can be imported on a revenue share basis, making it tough to get dis-

tribution approval. Other movies that failed to reach Chinese screens in 2006 include "Brokeback Mountain" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest." Chinese moviegoers that year were able to see "Mission: Impossible III" with Tom Cruise and "The Painted Veil," which was filmed in China and set in a Chinese village.

Warner Brothers, which produced and distributed "V for Vendetta," declined to comment.

China doesn't have a classification system, so all movies shown at its cinemas are open to adults and children of any age. A filmmaker and Beijing Film Academy professor, Xie Fei, published an open letter on Sina Weibo on Saturday calling for authorities to replace the movie censorship system that dates from the 1950s with a ratings system.

The airing of "V for Vendetta" raised some hopes about possible changes under Xi, who was publicly named China's new leader last month. He has already announced a trimmed-down style of leadership, calling on officials to reduce waste and unnecessary meetings and pomp. His reforms are aimed at pleasing a public long frustrated by local corruption.

State media say they have reduced reports on officials' trips as part of this drive. The official Xinhua News Agency warned this week that media outlets should "learn to play professionally in today's information age as an increasingly picky audience is constantly" putting them under scrutiny.

Cruise goes back to what he does best in 'Reacher'

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Just turned 50, Tom Cruise is eligible for membership in the American Association of Retired Persons. Just split from third wife Katie Holmes, Tom Cruise

is the object of told-you-so cynics who simply knew that romance wouldn't last. Just finished with his stab at something really different as a heavy-metal rock god in "Rock of Ages," Tom Cruise is coming off one of the lowest-grossing movies in his career.

Yet just out with his latest action flick, "Jack Reacher," Tom Cruise remains one of the biggest stars in Hollywood.

He's weathered ridicule, intense speculation about his family life, bumpy stretches at the box office brought on by audience disdain over his personal antics and some ill-considered movie projects.

And Cruise is right where he was when 1986's "Top Gun" vaulted him to superstardom: On top. Maybe not the same level of on top as the 15-year stretch that began in the early 1990s, when practically every Cruise film was bound to be a \$100 million hit.

But for a guy his age, with his baggage, in a business that deifies youth and excommunicates talent when it goes off the deep end, Cruise still prosers.

"None of us can stay in the spotlight that long without some issues and some controversy. Tom has stayed committed all along to finding great projects," said Rob Moore, vice chairman at Paramount Pictures, which released "Jack Reacher" on Friday. "What you see over time is that Tom has been in such a great list of movies that are of such high quality, that ultimately, people come back to the

work and the talent."

Fans seem to agree. In a poll of nearly 1,000 people buying movie tickets at Fandango.com, 82 percent said Cruise's personal life does not influence whether or not they will see his movies.

"The target audience for 'Jack Reacher' probably doesn't care whether he's married, separated or divorced," said Fandango.com chief correspondent Dave Karger. "As long as teenage guys tell their friends that they liked it, that's all that matters. These aren't people that are reading Us Weekly. They just want to know how the action is."

Arriving amid a pre-Christmas rush of films, expectations are modest for "Jack Reacher," with the opening weekend projected at \$15 million or less. The film was made on a moderate \$60 million budget, about \$100 million less than Cruise's last "Mission: Impossible" installment, and Paramount executives hope holiday crowds will give "Jack Reacher" an extended shelf life after opening weekend.

Adapted from "One Shot," part of Lee Child's series of best-selling books about a mysterious ex-military investigator, "Jack Reacher" features colder, crueler violence than the typical Cruise action film, which could hurt its prospects after the school shootings in Connecticut.

Cruise's Reacher is a fairly merciless lone wolf, while the movie opens with gruesome slayings as a sniper randomly scopes out victims to shoot.

"No question, for any of these types of movies, it's a raw nerve," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "Violent imagery of any kind may be a bit of a tougher sell right now."



This publicity film image released by Paramount Pictures shows Tom Cruise in a scene from "Jack Reacher."

Tate Stevens wins Fox's 'X Factor'



Tate Stevens attends the "The X Factor" season finale at CBS Television City on Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012, in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Tate Stevens, who was mentored by music exec L.A. Reid on the second season of "The X Factor," has won the Fox singing competition.

The 37-year-old country singer from Missouri beat runner-up Carly Rose Sonenclar,

a 13-year-old schoolgirl from Westchester, New York, and teenage girl group Fifth Harmony on the finale that aired live Thursday night.

Stevens wins a \$5 million recording contract.

More than 35 million votes were cast by viewers after

Wednesday's performance show.

Besides Reid, judges this season included Demi Lovato, Britney Spears and British series creator Simon Cowell.

Thursday's show was also the grand finale for Reid. Earlier this month, he said he wouldn't be returning to "The X Factor" next year. No replacement has been announced.

PSY's 'Gangnam Style' reaches 1B views on YouTube



In this Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012 file photo, South Korean entertainer PSY, left, performs the song "Gangnam Style" during halftime of an NFL football game between the Buffalo Bills and Seattle Seahawks, in Toronto.

NEW YORK (AP)—Viral star PSY has reached a new milestone on YouTube.

The South Korean rapper's video for "Gangnam Style" has reached 1 billion views, according to YouTube's counter. It's the first time any clip has surpassed that mark on the streaming service owned by Google Inc.

The self-deprecating video features Park Jae-sang's giddy up-style dance moves. The

video has been available on YouTube since July 15, averaging more than 200 million views per month.

Justin Bieber's video for "Baby" held the previous YouTube record at more than 800 million views.

Earlier this month Google announced "Gangnam Style" was the second-highest trending search of 2012 behind Whitney Houston, died in February.

Rebel Wilson to host springtime MTV Movie Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Pitch Perfect" star and "Bridesmaids" scene-stealer Rebel Wilson is taking center stage.

MTV says it tapped the Australian actress to host its annual movie awards, set for April 14 in Culver City, California. The network made the announcement late Thursday during the finale of its popular "Jersey Shore" series.

Wilson is an actress and writer who rose to fame with her role as Kristin Wiig's nosy



Expect When You're Expecting."

The MTV Movie Awards have traditionally been held in June, but as the summer movie season has edged into May, the network scheduled its show earlier to give film fans a peek at the season's blockbusters. The MTV Movie Awards has often featured exclusive film previews.

to be on the market.

Russell Crowe back in Sydney with family

SYDNEY (AP)—Academy award-winning actor Russell Crowe has been reunited with his family, returning to Sydney and visiting the home of his estranged wife, Danielle Spencer, where his children live. Cover Media agency reported Friday that Crowe was carrying a large bag of Christmas gifts when spotted on Wednesday getting out of a car after his arrival. The New Zealand-born actor has been in New York shooting his new fantasy movie, "Winter's Tale," alongside Colin Farrell, and flew to Australia after spending the morning on the set. Crowe will walk the red carpet Friday in Sydney for his new movie, "Les Misérables," and is then expected to spend some more time with his sons, Charles and Tennyson. Crowe and Spencer announced in October that they were separating after a nine-year union.

Hunt for childhood friends yields surprising discovery

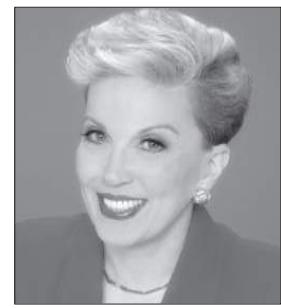
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: While searching for two of my husband's childhood friends, with his knowledge, I believe I may have found a child he doesn't know is his. I'm not positive that the child is his, but the time frame and location indicate that he could be, and there's a strong resemblance to my husband's brother. (I have seen photos on the Internet.)

I am curious whether my hunch is correct, but I'm afraid of asking the questions, not knowing how they would be received. My husband is a kind and caring person, a great husband and father. The child could have been conceived during a casual, one-night stand before we started dating.

I now wish I had never found this information because by not asking, I feel like I'm in denial, and by not saying anything to him, I feel like a terrible person. If the child is his, the mother has kept this from him for more than 10 years.

I'd really appreciate some input. What's the right thing to do?



Dear Abby

WONDERING IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR WONDERING: I see nothing to be gained by withholding this from your spouse. Tell your husband about your research, and what you think you may have turned up. Then ask if he is acquainted with the child's mother. The resemblance could be coincidental, or the child could have been fathered by another family member.

DEAR ABBY: One of my fond memories of my father when I was growing up was that he would always order my mom's meal when we were out for dinner. Of course, she decided what she wanted to eat, but when the waiter came, my dad would always say, "My wife would like the...." Now that I'm older and married, my husband does the same for me.

One couple we dine out with regularly gives me a difficult time about this "tradition." They make comments like, "Oh, Susan's not allowed to speak in a restaurant." The wife has also told me she thinks it's disrespectful to me when my husband orders my food. I have explained that it was a cherished memory of mine and not something forced on me. It's like when a man opens a door for a woman. I can definitely open the door myself, but I appreciate the sweet gesture.

I try to respect opinions that differ from my own, and I don't expect everyone to do as I do. Do you think I'm living in the Stone Age?

SUSAN IN VIRGINIA

DEAR SUSAN: No, I do not; you appear to be living quite happily in the present. While the tradition you and your husband are observing is "antiquated," you are hurting no one.

Please allow me to make an observation: When couples dine out together socially, they are supposed to relax, entertain each other and have a good time. Giving you "heartburn" regarding who orders your dinner is rude, particularly since this couple has done it more than once and has been given an explanation. From my perspective, you might enjoy your evenings out more if you shared them with this particular couple less often.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447.* (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

UK man jailed over forged Churchill signatures

LONDON (AP)—A British antiques dealer has been jailed for 10 months for forging the signatures of Winston Churchill and other famous figures in books he sold as collector items. Prosecutors say Allan Formhals bought books at recycling centers and junk sales and made thousands of pounds selling them on eBay after adding the bogus autographs.

Judge Peter Henry said police who searched the 66-year-old's home in Milford-on-Sea in southern England found "an Aladdin's Cave" of forged signatures from Oliver Cromwell, Queen Elizabeth I, Marie Antoinette and others. Formhals was convicted in October of 10 counts of fraud and sentenced Friday. Ian Lawson of the Metropolitan Police economic crimes unit said police had recovered more than 100 forged volumes, but many more are believed still

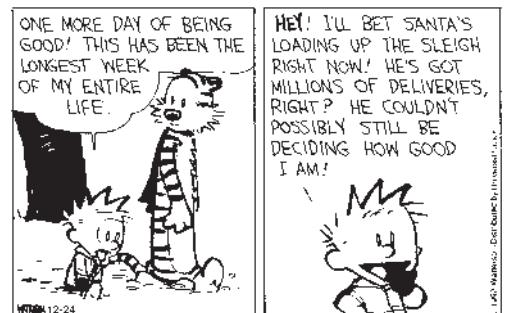
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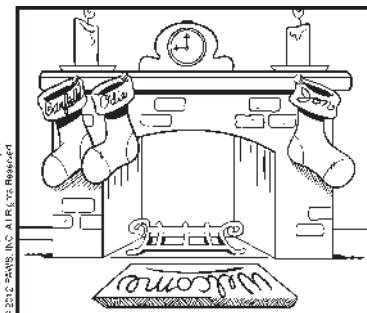
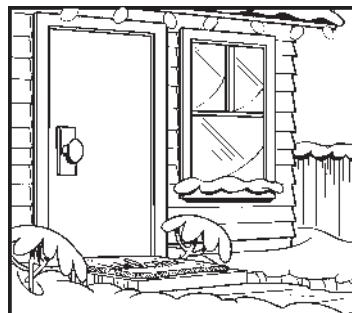
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



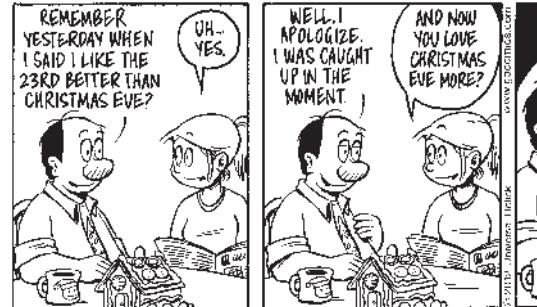
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



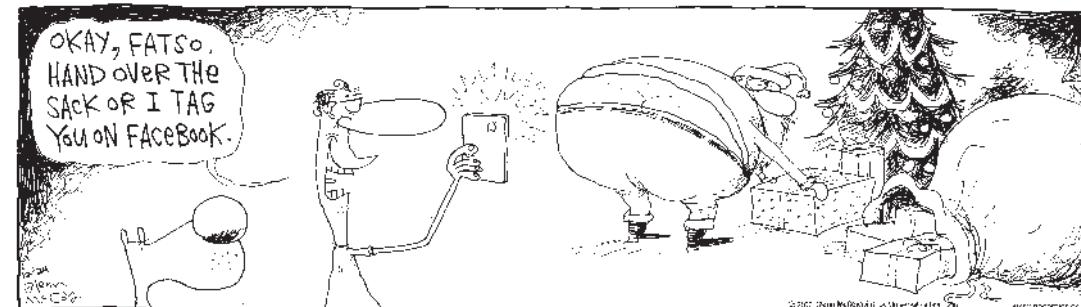
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

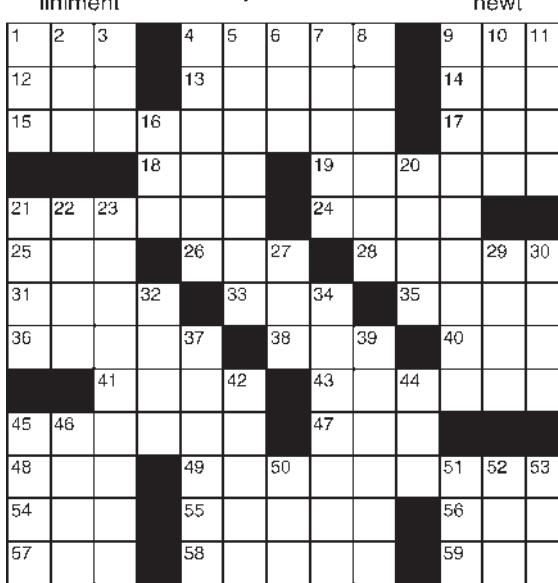
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

| ACROSS | 38 | Urban trans- | 21 | One of the Three Bears |
|-----------------------------|----|----------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 Fetch | | transport | 1 | Talk on and on |
| 4 Cheek-related | 40 | Lead-in to "plop" or "plunk" | 2 | Before 3 Afternoon drink |
| 9 Distant | | | 22 | Novelist Amblin |
| 12 Exist | | | 23 | Keeps (from) |
| 13 Remark to the audience | 41 | "Das Lied von der Erde" composer | 27 | Symbol of intrigue |
| 14 Hockey surface | 43 | Pushed up | 29 | Genealogy chart |
| 15 Troops' landing site | 45 | Candle holder | 30 | Cattle group |
| 17 Spanish Mrs. | 47 | Former transp. org. | 32 | Adolescent |
| 18 Ctrl's keyboard neighbor | 48 | Ailing | 34 | Heart chamber |
| 19 Partook in a slam dance | 49 | Thumb a ride | 37 | Summer houses, in Russia |
| 21 Loud kitten, maybe | 50 | Cover | 39 | torte |
| 24 Adam's third son | 51 | Spry | 42 | Rule |
| 25 "Entourage" role | 52 | Ump | 44 | German pronoun |
| 26 Un-cooked | 53 | Special — | 45 | Missile shelter |
| 28 Reality, old-style | 54 | Villain's look | 46 | Paper holder |
| 31 Loser to Barack | 55 | Pismire | 50 | Dead heat |
| 33 Verily | 56 | 20 Halt | 51 | Playwright Levin |
| 35 Skin opening | 57 | | 52 | Barbie's companion |
| 36 Needed liniment | 58 | | 53 | Small newt |

Solution time: 27 mins.

Friday's answer 12-21



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Seacrest, 38; Stephenie Meyer, 39; Ricky Martin, 41; Diedrich Bader, 46.

Happy Birthday: Strive for consistency. Stick to your plan and perfect whatever you are trying to accomplish. Change may not be something you welcome, but if you adapt to situations and turn negatives into positives, you will be the one who is rewarded in the end. Spice up your life and expand your interests, circle of friends and your attitude. Your numbers are 3, 8, 15, 24, 33, 41, 49.



ARIES (March 21-April 19): Feel good about your past. Remember the good and let any of the negativity that has daunted you drift away. Good opportunities through interesting people you meet lay ahead. Embrace this festive season as a new beginning. Love is highlighted. ☀️☀️



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Tidy up any unfinished business and set your sights on travel, entertaining and most of all communicating with people who always bring you great joy. Unusual talks and offerings will lead you in a direction you have never considered in the past. ☀️☀️



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Enjoy getting together with friends and family or spending time with your lover. Everyone you deal with will show greater interest in your ventures and seek honest assessment and help from you. Popularity will give you a confidence boost, helping you surge ahead. ☀️☀️



CANCER (June 21-July 22): Finish odd jobs so you can attend festive gatherings that interest you. A change in your profes-

sional plans for the future may be unexpected but also a relief. Harness your skills, speak of your intentions and progress enthusiastically. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Volunteer at a soup kitchen or a senior's home and you'll realize how fortunate you are.

Love is in the stars, and planning an evening socializing will lead to new interests or an improved relationship with the one you love. ☀️



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your effort and willingness to get everything finished before you take time out for you and your loved ones will enhance your professional reputation. However, don't expect to bypass upset with your personal relationships with those wanting more of your time and attention. ☀️☀️☀️



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ignore discord at home or with someone trying to control what you do or spend. The joy you bring to others will make a difference in the end. Expect a last-minute change of plans, and embrace challenge earnestly and positively. ☀️☀️



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): An unexpected surprise awaits you. It's payback time, and the very responsibilities you've taken on so graciously will be rewarded. Open up your heart and enjoy good tidings with friends, family or the person dearest to your heart. Make a commitment. ☀️☀️



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make last-minute changes at home that will delight the people you love or that will just make you feel good. A surprise you've been waiting for is likely to be divulged, leading to special plans that will change the way you live. ☀️☀️

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): As long as you don't try to make last minute changes, you will remain in control and please everyone counting on you. A favor will be granted by someone you may have underestimated in the past, giving this relationship a positive injection. ☀️☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Open your doors to family and friends. Giving what you can to those less fortunate will boost your confidence and help you reestablish better relationships with those who may have something to offer you in the near future. Love is in the stars. ☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your thoughts a secret, avoid being indulgent, and steer clear of those showing excessive tendencies. It's important to gauge your time, money and assistance carefully to avoid being taken advantage of or accused of taking someone for granted. Abide by rules and regulations. ☀️☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are curious, unpredictable and an adventurer. You thrive when challenged. Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| 9 | 4 | | | 3 | 2 | | | |
| 5 | | | | 6 | | | | |
| 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 | | 8 | | | |
| | 1 | 4 | 5 | 8 | | | | |
| 9 | | 1 | 6 | | | | | |
| 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | | | | | |
| 6 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | | 4 | | |
| 7 | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 2 | 8 | | | 9 | 3 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 |
| 5 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 6 |
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 9 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAPITAL GAINS TAXES

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | P | L | A | D | V | I | S | O | R | G | R | O | S | S |
| N | H | R | A | B | S | T | I | F | O | R | P | F | U | E |
| T | S | A | I | N | N | O | N | O | V | L | O | S | S | S |
| E | A | T | V | C | D | N | E | T | L | E | G | A | L | A |
| R | L | E | K | E | R | D | S | A | N | S | W | A | L | |
| P | E | S | X | D | N | T | D | S | I | L | C | D | T | U |
| R | B | F | R | M | A | N | E | D | L | H | J | D | E | C |
| I | U | U | E | S | E | L | L | A | A | U | E | R | M | L |
| S | B | N | S | D | B | O | I | R | S | C | N | O | E | A |
| E | T | I | I | H | C | I | T | L | S | N | I | S | C | |
| M | T | V | G | E | N | T | M | A | R | E | K | L | T | I |
| S | I | I | R | A | A | E | R | O | Y | U | A | N | G | S |
| D | L | A | N | B | N | E | S | A | V | E | S | I | A | A |
| E | H | I | L | T | M | I | S | D | E | V | T | S | B | |
| S | F | E | P | C | C | H | A | R | G | E | A | B | L | |

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT - WINCHELL'S DONUTS

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6 vacancies for **Dough Makers/Bakers**. Wage range \$5.55 to \$5.70 per hour. High school level, or an equivalent of at least 3 years experience in baking. Knowledge in operating a cash register or POS system preferred. Must be customer-service oriented. Must be able to lift at least 50 lbs. Must be confident in doing basic mathematical skills. Must be able to read, write and speak basic English. Able to converse in basic Japanese or other foreign languages highly preferred.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Please get application forms and submit them at our Winchell's Garapan location from 8am to 12 noon or email them to dennis@guam.net

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|-----------|----------------|
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COMBO

| (PRINT AND ONLINE) |
|---------------------------|
| \$30 |
| \$45 |

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Lakers rally past Warriors in OT in Nash's return

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kobe Bryant had 34 points and 10 rebounds, Steve Nash finished with 12 points and nine assists in his first game in almost two months, and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied from 14 points down in the fourth quarter to beat the Golden State Warriors 118-115 in overtime on Saturday night.

Metta World Peace and Nash each made a go-ahead 3-pointer in the final minutes of regulation before the Warriors came back. World Peace scored 20 points, and Nash converted a step-back shot for the final points in overtime to lift Los Angeles to its fourth straight victory.

Jarrett Jack scored 29 points and David Lee had 20 points and 11 rebounds in a disappointing collapse for Golden State, which had won 11 of 14 games to get off to its best start in 20 years. As so often has happened in this one-sided California rivalry, the Lakers took over when it mattered most.

The 38-year-old Nash missed the previous 24 games because of a small fracture in his lower left leg. He was injured in the second game of the season, the former Phoenix star's first with the Lakers.

Los Angeles' rejuvenated point guard showed no signs of rust in the crucial moments.

Nash's 3-pointer gave the Lakers a 103-102 lead with a little less than 2 minutes left in regulation. Festus Ezeli answered with an alley-oop from Jack to put the Warriors back ahead, only to watch Bryant swish a pull-up jumper from 20 feet on the other end.

After Lee's jumper gave Golden State the lead again, World Peace made a corner 3 to put Los Angeles ahead 108-106 with 24.1 seconds remaining. Jack followed with a tying, step-back shot, and the Lakers took over with 14.9 seconds left before Bryant missed a jumper over two defenders at the buzzer.

Bryant made three quick jumpers in overtime, including a fadeaway that left him pumping his fist near the Warriors bench, to put Los Angeles ahead by four. He has scored at least 30 points in eight straight games.

After Curry's 3-pointer trimmed the Lakers' lead to one, Nash's step-back shot in the paint over Curry extended Los Angeles' cushion again. Curry missed a potential tying 3-pointer before Los Angeles grabbed the rebound—and the game.

The Lakers had handed Golden State its most lopsided-loss of the season on Nov. 9, a 101-77 rout in Los Angeles. In the past two months, the Lakers had continued to slide while the Warriors had become surprising winners.

The matchup Saturday marked the first time the Warriors faced the Lakers with a better record through at least 25 games since April 23, 1994.

Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said before the game that Nash's return could be a fresh start for the franchise, especially with more difficult matchups looming, including a showdown against the New York Knicks (19-7) on Christmas. He said the lineup with Nash is what he had envisioned when the Lakers called him in November to replace Mike Brown, who was fired after a 1-4 start to his second season.

With Nash anchoring D'Antoni's fast-paced system, the Lakers still had no problem settling in offensively.



AP
Los Angeles Lakers' Steve Nash (10) shoots over Golden State Warriors' Andris Biedrins (15) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012.

They scored 15 points off 10 turnovers in the opening quarter to take a 31-27 lead. Dwight Howard was in foul trouble throughout, and the center's absence hurt Los Angeles on the other end, with the Warriors moving in and around the paint almost unchallenged.

At one point, Jack juked Nash and every other defender Los Angeles threw his way. He scored 15 points in the second quarter, sparking a 14-0 run that helped put Golden State ahead 61-53 at halftime.

The up-and-down pace had everybody winded. Curry had to ask coach Mark Jackson to come out for a moment in the third quarter as Golden State played its fourth game in five nights. After a brief rest, Curry keyed another surge to give the Warriors an 88-74 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Bryant practically willed the Lakers back by himself as he has done so often in his illustrious career. He finished an alley-oop from Nash on the next play with two hands, sliced Golden State's lead to 90-88 when he dunked after a give-and-go bounce pass from Howard.

midway through the fourth, and tied the game at 95 with a 3-pointer in the face of Harrison Barnes minutes later to set up the frantic finish

Heat 105, Jazz 89

In Miami, LeBron James scored 30 points, Dwyane Wade added 21 points and seven assists, and the Miami Heat rode the strength of a big third-quarter run to beat the Utah Jazz.

James added nine rebounds and seven assists for the Eastern Conference-leading Heat, who won their fourth straight game and next play on Christmas against Oklahoma City in a rematch of last season's NBA Finals. Shane Battier scored 15 and Ray Allen added 13 for Miami, which opened the second half on a 22-6 run to build a 69-49 lead.

Marvin Williams scored 16 for Utah, which got 15 from Gordon Hayward and 11 from Paul Millsap.

The Jazz played the second half without Mo Williams, who appeared to hurt his right thumb. Miami was without Chris Bosh, home with what the team said was a cold.

James has scored at least 20 points in all 24 Heat games this season, matching the longest run of 20-or-more efforts to start a year since Karl Malone did it for Utah in the 1989-90 campaign. It also was the 29th straight regular-season game in which James scored at least 20 points and 45th consecutive overall.

James also didn't get called for a personal foul for a sixth straight game.

Nuggets 110, Bobcats 88

In Denver, Kosta Koufos scored a season-high 16 points, and Kenneth Faried and Andre Iguodala added 15 points apiece as Denver sent Charlotte to its 15th consecutive loss.

JaVale McGee added 14 points, and Danilo Gallinari had 12 for Denver, which won its sixth in a row at home since its only loss there — 98-93 to Miami on Nov. 15.

Charlotte, playing the second of a back-to-back set on the road, was without injured guards Gerald Henderson and Ben Gordon.

Ramon Sessions had 23 points to lead Charlotte. Byron Mullens added 16.

Hawks 92, Bulls 75

In Atlanta, Al Horford had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and every Atlanta starter scored in double figures as the Hawks routed Chicago to snap a two-game losing streak.

Lou Williams added 16 points in his first start, and the Atlanta native led the way as the Hawks outscored the Bulls 61-33 in the second and third quarters combined.

Luol Deng paced Chicago with 11 points, but the Bulls (15-11) couldn't build on its 110-106 victory over the Knicks in New York on Friday. The Hawks (16-9), however, bounced back from a poor fourth-quarter performance in a 99-80 loss at Philadelphia.

Atlanta starters outscored Chicago's starters 72-39 in Hawks coach Larry Drew's 100th victory (100-73).

Williams started at shooting guard, but began the second quarter playing point guard in place of starter Jeff Teague. Williams had 11 points in the period as the Hawks outscored the Bulls 25-6 over the final 6:58.

Pistons 96, Wizards 87

In Washington, Charlie Villanueva scored 19 points, Rodney Stuckey added 18, and Detroit earned its second win in two nights over Washington.

The Pistons have won consecutive games only twice this season. Detroit grabbed a season-high 58 rebounds for the second straight night.

The Wizards, who trailed throughout, have lost seven straight and are an NBA-worst 3-22. Washington got within 88-81 with 6:15 to play, but didn't score for nearly four minutes as Detroit stretched its advantage to 94-81 with 2:55 left.

Jordan Crawford, who scored his only point of the first half with 1:05 to play, scored 20 after halftime to lead Washington with 21 overall. Emeka Okafor scored 14 points and tied a season high with 14 rebounds.

Rockets 121, Grizzlies 96

In Houston, James Harden scored 31 points with eight assists, and Houston earned its third straight win by topping Memphis.

The Grizzlies entered the game allowing an NBA-low 89.2 points a

game. But they had no answer for Harden. He did all his scoring in the first three quarters and reached at least 20 points for an eighth straight game.

Houston used a big run midway through the second quarter to take the lead, and didn't trail after that to break a four-game winning streak by the Grizzlies.

Mike Conley had 16 points for the Grizzlies on a night when leading scorer Rudy Gay finished with a season-low six points.

Memphis hadn't allowed 100 points since the Clippers scored 101 in the season-opener—an NBA-best streak of 23 games. The Rockets needed just over three quarters to reach the mark with a free throw by Jeremy Lin with 9 1-2 minutes left.

It was the Rockets' 13th straight home victory over the Grizzlies. Memphis hasn't won in Houston since April 2006.

Lin added 15 points and 11 assists, and Marcus Morris scored 16 points.

Pacers 81, Hornets 75

In New Orleans, David West scored 20 of his 25 points in the second half and Indiana overcame a 22-point deficit to hand New Orleans its 11th straight loss.

Paul George steadied Indiana in the first half with 11 points, and finished with 17 to help the Pacers win for the seventh time in eight games.

Robin Lopez had 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Hornets, stuck in their worst stretch since December 2004. Greivis Vasquez added 14 points, and Anthony Davis had 10.

After the Hornets took a 46-24 lead, the Pacers outscored them 57-29—including 24-7 in the third quarter.

West scored his 10,000th career point midway through the third quarter.

Cavaliers 94, Bucks 82

In Milwaukee, Dion Waiters scored 18 points and Cleveland snapped a six-game losing streak by beating Milwaukee.

C.J. Miles added 16 points, and Kyrie Irving had 15 for the Cavaliers, who played without starting center Anderson Varejao for the third straight game because of a bruised right knee.

Monta Ellis had a season-high 37 points for Milwaukee. The Bucks had won the previous nine games against the Cavaliers.

Trail Blazers 96, Suns 93

In Portland, Ore., J.J. Hickson had 19 points and 15 rebounds for his seventh straight double-double, and Portland defeated Phoenix for its fifth straight win. Rookie Damian Lillard had 25 points, including 18 in the second half.

Sasha Pavolic and Lillard made consecutive 3-pointers as Portland pulled in front 92-85 with 4:02 left. The Suns got to within 94-91 on Marcin Gortat's layup with 1:24 to go.

After Lillard's 19-foot, step-back jumper, Jared Dudley had a layup for the Suns to make it 96-93. Phoenix furiously tried to get a shot off in the final seconds, but Goran Dragic missed a 3-pointer, and Shannon Brown missed a short jumper.

Gortat had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Suns, who led by as many as 12 points in the first half. The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for Phoenix.

The Blazers haven't won five straight since February 2011.

Falcons top Lions for home-field advantage



DETROIT (AP)— Matt Ryan got what he wanted.

Calvin Johnson was forced to settle for what he could get.

Ryan matched a career high with four touchdown passes, two to Roddy White, to help the Atlanta Falcons beat the Detroit Lions 31-18 Saturday night and earn home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

"It's great," Ryan said. "Our confidence is high and our experience—good and bad—has helped us. The key is to keep the focus where it's been."

In yet another loss, Johnson had a record-breaking night.

Johnson broke Jerry Rice's NFL single-season yards receiving mark of 1,848. After making the record-breaking catch in the fourth quarter, Johnson jogged over to the sideline and handed the football to his father.

"That was a very special moment," he said.

Johnson also became the only player with 100 yards receiving in eight straight games and the first with 10 receptions in four games in a row in league history. He had 11 receptions for 225 yards, giving him 1,892 this season.

"I've been an NFL fan my whole life, dating back to watching Johnny Unitas and Raymond Berry as a kid, and I've coached in this league for 19 years," Detroit coach Jim Schwartz said. "I've seen a lot of Hall of Famers, but I've never seen a better player than Calvin Johnson."

"He just broke a record set by Jerry Rice, who is arguably the best player in this history of this league."

The Falcons (13-2) pulled away with Ryan's fourth TD pass to wide-open tight end Michael Palmer in the fourth quarter and Matt Bryant's 20-yard field goal with 3:05 left that gave them a 15-point lead.

Ryan was 25 of 32 for 279 yards without a turnover.

The Falcons hope playing at home, potentially throughout the conference playoffs, helps them more than it did after the 2010 and 1980 seasons. The Falcons failed to win a game in either postseason, getting routed by Green Bay two years ago and blowing a double-digit, fourth-quarter lead to Dallas three decades ago.

Atlanta advanced to its only Super Bowl with a win at Minnesota after winning a franchise-record 14 games during the 1998 season.

The Falcons won't have much incentive to match that mark next week at home against Tampa Bay, when they'll have nothing to gain and something to lose if a key player or more gets hurt.

Detroit (4-11) has been relegated to playing for pride this month and that hasn't been going very well.

The Lions, whose seven-game losing streak is the lon-



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan prepares to throw during the second quarter of an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions at Ford Field in Detroit, Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012. AP

gest skid in the league, haven't struggled this much since the laughingstock of a franchise became the league's first to go 0-16 in 2008.

The Falcons led 21-3 at half-time before letting the Lions pull within five points early in the fourth quarter.

Ryan dashed Detroit's comeback hopes.

Facing intense pressure, he converted a third down in Atlanta territory with a pass to White, picked on rookie cornerback Jonte Green by throwing to Jones to pick up more first downs and found Tony Gonzalez open to convert another third down to set up his fourth TD pass.

"We didn't play well in the third quarter," Atlanta coach Mike Smith said. "Matt made some big throws on that drive."

Stafford was clearly trying to get the ball to Johnson on the next drive and cornerback Asante Samuel figured that out, stepping in front of the receiver for an interception to set up Bryant's field goal.

Atlanta running back Michael Turner was tackled in the end zone, after Detroit turned the ball over on downs, to give the Lions two meaningless points.

Ryan went deep to White for the first score, connecting with him on a 44-yard TD strike with 5:50 left in the first quarter.

Ryan threw a short pass to him early in the second quarter and the standout receiver did the rest on a 39-yard sprint down the sideline.

Ryan put his third TD pass where only Julio Jones could catch it a corner of the end zone, and he did on a 16-yard reception that put Atlanta up 21-3.

Detroit didn't give up, a game after being accused of doing just that in a 38-10 loss at Arizona.

Jason Hanson kicked a second field goal late in the first

half to make it 21-6.

After Atlanta opened the second half with a three-and-out drive, Mikel Leshoure scored on a 1-yard run midway through the third quarter to pull the Lions with eight points.

Hanson's third field goal made it 21-16.

Stafford finished 37 of 56 for 443 yards with an interception and the Lions say he set an NFL record for the most yards passing in a game without throwing a TD pass.

Detroit dug a big hole because the Falcons scored two TDs off turnovers in the first half.

Defensive end Kroy Bier-

mann forced running Leshoure to fumble, giving the Falcons the ball at their 31 and they took advantage. Ryan's perfectly lofted pass to White's fingertips converted a third-and-1 in a big way, putting the Falcons ahead.

The Lions responded with another drive into Atlanta territory, but stalled and had to settle for Hanson's 34-yard field goal in the final minute of the opening quarter to pull within four points.

Atlanta earned a double-digit lead on the ensuing drive.

Ryan threw a screen pass to his left to White, who got a great block from tight end Gon-

zalez, and the receiver raced untouched for a score that put the Falcons ahead 14-3.

White finished with eight receptions for 153 yards and two TDs. Jones had seven receptions for 71 yards and a score.

Ryan completed his first 12 attempts and, after his first incomplete pass, he converted a third-and-10 with an 11-yard toss to Jacquizz Rodgers. Two plays later, Ryan matched a season high with a third TD pass on the connection with Jones. Prior to the game, Ryan hadn't started a game with more than 10 consecutive completions, according to STATS LLC. He

started 10 for 10 last month against Tampa Bay.

Johnson had three receptions for 70 yards in the first quarter, breaking Herman Moore's single-season franchise record for yards receiving.

By halftime, Johnson had 117 yards receiving. He had 100 yards receiving for an eighth straight game, breaking a record set by Charley Hennigan in 1961 and matched by Michael Irvin in 1995. It was Johnson's 11th game with 100 yards receiving this season, tying Irvin's NFL mark.

"Calvin is one of the best players in the game and I think everybody is a big fan of his," Ryan said. "He's one of the most genuinely nice people you could meet."

Stafford connected with Johnson on a short crossing route and the receiver did the rest, outrunning Falcons on a 49-yard gain. Fittingly, the Lions turned the ball over on the next snap in the latest lowlight in a season full of them.

The Lions, Falcons and fans at Ford Field in Detroit honored the victims of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School before the game. Players had memorial decals on their helmets that read "S.H.E.S." in white on a black background, and Detroit's coaches wore pins with a similar design.

There was also a moment of silence before the national anthem while the names and ages of each victim were shown on the videoboards. Twenty children and six adults were killed in the Dec. 14 shooting in Newtown, Conn. Adam Lanza killed his mother, shot students and staff, then killed himself.

Ross, Diamondbacks agree to \$26 million, 3-yr deal



PHOENIX

(AP)—Cody Ross and the Arizona Diamondbacks agreed to a \$26 million, three-year contract Saturday that includes a club option for 2016.

.253 with 30 home runs and 90 RBIs. He was hitting .300 on July 22 but batted .176 with 19 RBIs the rest of the season.

Ross, who throws left-handed and bats right-handed, was a fourth-round draft pick of Detroit out of Carlsbad, N.M., High School in 1999. He had brief major league stints with the Tigers, Los Angeles Dodgers and Cincinnati before becoming a full-time big leaguer with the Florida Marlins.

Ross was claimed by San Francisco off waivers in August 2010 and was MVP of that year's NL championship series, hitting .350 with three home runs and five RBIs against Philadelphia. He also homered against Texas in the World Series and batted .294 (15 for 51) with five homers, five doubles and 10 RBIs in 15 postseason games for the champion Giants.

He committed one error in each of the last two seasons.

The Diamondbacks also announced that infielder Gustavo Nunez cleared waivers and was returned to Detroit, opening a spot for Ross on the 40-man roster. Nunez was claimed off

waivers from Pittsburgh in October after the Pirates selected

him from the Tigers in the 2011 Rule 5 draft.

Source: Pirates, Red Sox near deal for Hanrahan

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Boston Red Sox are pursuing another burly right-hander to shore up their bullpen.

A person familiar with the talks said the Red Sox and Pirates are close to completing a trade that would send All-Star closer Joel Hanrahan to Boston for a handful of prospects.

Pittsburgh would ship Hanrahan and another player to the Red Sox in exchange for four players, including outfielder-first baseman Jerry Sands and minor league pitcher Stolmy Pimentel. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Saturday because the trade was pending physicals and had not been finalized.

The deal was previously reported by several media outlets.

The 31-year-old Hanrahan has been one of baseball's best

closers the last two years, saving 76 games from 2011-12 and making the NL All-Star team in both seasons. He made \$4,135,000 this year and is eligible for arbitration, putting him in line for a hefty raise.

The 6-foot-4, 250-pound Hanrahan and his 96 mph fastball gave the Pirates stability at the back end of the bullpen after he took over the closer's role full-time in 2011. He helped the Pirates post a 22-game improvement from 2010 to 2012. Pittsburgh went 79-83 this year, tied for the franchise's best record in two decades—though it was still the team's 20th straight losing season.

Jason Grilli, re-signed by the Pirates this month, would likely step into the closer role next year.

Try Luck, Fantastic Baby! lead SEDA's 20th awards edition



Jonny's Bar & Grill's four-time Ladies' champions Try Luck, left, and SOS Bar & Grill's Masters champions Fantastic Baby! pose with their first place trophies during yesterday's SEDA-2012 Bud Light Summer/Winter Open Dart League awards banquet held in Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

SEDA
Four-time reigning Ladies League champions Try Luck and this year's master level winners Fantastic Baby! shone brightest in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 20th Bud Light Dart League which held its awards banquet yesterday in Charley's Cabaret at Pacific Islands Club.

Try Luck hails out of Jonny's Bar & Grill and is comprised of team captain Aida Laniyo, Luz Antonio, Tresha Diez, Matrina Lisua, Rita Fital, and Tess Tesero.

Fantastic Baby! represents SOS Bar & Grill and includes team captain Jeff Barit, Jun Baltazar, Junnie Guevarra, Romy Intendez, and Joshua Wodson.

Both squads pulled off identical sweeps this season and also triumphed in the post-season Bud Light Cup tournaments as well.

Other 2012 Summer/Fall season winners included SOS' A-division champion Out-

lawz; Tuesday B-League's Triple Threat out of Oceanside Bart & Grill; B-Fanihi's DJ Fish of Bammy's Restaurant; B-Flame Tree's Kyodai out of Jonny's; C-Division's Lupeyt of Sand's Bar, and Inter-Government division's Department of Public Lands-Sakude! III of Jonny's.

Outlawz members include captain Rod Osario, Jun Azarcon, Cliff Hamoy, Mario Jumalon, Bernard Paras, and Richard Presinede. The team also won the Bud Light Cup tourney.

Triple Threat took home a Bud Cup as well and is made up of captain Alvin Palma, Daniel Dela Cruz, Clifford Hamoy, Geroge Medina Brian Nelvis, Rod Osario, Ryan Paras, and Rich Presinede.

DJ Fish is comprised of captain Rod Osario, Marc Butac, Clifford Hamoy, Alvin Palma, Jun Roa, Danilo and Julie Bert Salinas, and Allan Vila.

Kyodai members include captain Jeff Tomokane, Allan and A.J. Cabrera, Manny Celis, Joseph Cruz, Josef Guerrero, and Tony Tomokane. It also managed sweep this term and

won the Bud Light Cup.

Lupeyt is comprised of captain Buddy Garote, Morin Bahia, Ronald De Ramos, Gil Gapor, Jun Pineda, Mark Rigua, and Gerald Rivera.

DPL-Sakude III is made up of captain Tony Tomokane, Sam Babauta, Dean Borja, Jack Guerrero, Joe Mafnas, Amber Mendiola, and George and Vince Sablan.

Other Bud Light Cup winners included B-Fanihi's IT&E Na'Gupu, out of Naked Fish Bar & Grill; C-division's Joker Royal of SOS; and the Inter-Government division's Department of Public Safety-Bad Boyz, also of SOS.

IT&E Na'Gupu members include captain Victor Borja, Jeff Babauta, George Cruz, Sim Iramk, Rolly Morales, and Alvin Sablan with Fred and Jun Salavarria.

Joker Royal is comprised of captain Francisco Palacios, Marcial Chavez, Joseph, and Josh Cruz and Ronald Doria.

DPS-Bad Boyz includes captain Ferdy Ngirmekur, Emory Kaipat, Vince Mareham, Justin Mizutani, Bernard Santos, Stan-

ley Patris, Norbert Pua, and Patrick Togawa.

This year's runners-up includes master's Mahort Crew, of VFW Post 3457; Ladies' Momes'l Mei, of Bammy's; A-division's Mafia, out of Oceanside; Tuesday-B's Na'Gupu II, of Naked Fish; B-Fanihi's IT&E Na'Gupu, of Naked Fish; B-Flame Tree's Real Deal, of Joe's; Zyndikato, of Bammy's; and Inter-Government's Team CUC, also of Bammy's.

Third placers included master's Dart Seekers, out of Joe's; Ladies B-52 Shooters, of Es'y Kitchen; A-division's Bud Bros., of Oceanside; Tuesday-B's Delubyo, of VFW; B-Fanihi's Oneshot, of Joe's; B-Flame Tree's Team Exotic, of Naked Fish; C-division's Joker Royal, of SOS; and Inter-government's Coastal Resource Management Office's Primos, of Naked Fish; while C-Division's Hafa Mas, of Naked Fish, was the lone fourth place award recipient.

In addition, Team Sportsmanship honors went out to Master's The Joker, of SOS; A-division's Bud Brothers,

of Oceanside; Tuesday-B's K-1 Scorpions, of The Waterfront; B-Fanihi's Shooters, of Oceanside; B-Flame Tree's Juvy Refalauan's, of Sand's Bar; C-division's Hafa Mas, of Naked Fish; Ladies' Just Like Dat, of Joe's Steakhouse; and Inter-Government's Northern Marianas College-Proa, out of Naked Fish.

Special individual spoils were issued to "SEDA pioneers" Rick Elefante, Joy Silva, Junnie Guevara, and Virgie Rivera; "Mr. and Ms. SEDA(s)" Tony Tomokane, Rita Fital, and Christina Cruz; and team captain of the year Rod Osario.

This year's selection of most valuable players included master's Jayson John, Ladies' Aida Laniyo, A-division's George Sablan, Tuesday-B's Lifford Hamoy, B-Fanihi's Danilo Salinas, B-Flame Tree's Allan Cabrera, C-division's Chester Hamoy, and Inter-Government's George Sablan.

Top Gun trophies were awarded to master's Jun Olita,

A-division's George Sablan, Tuesday-B's Clifford Hamoy, B-Flame Tree's Vince Sablan, B-Fanihi's Clifford Hamoy, C-division's Chester Hamoy, Ladies' Aida Laniyo, and Inter-Government's Jayson John.

The divisional High-In and Hi-Out couples included master's Joshua Wodson and Julian Camacho; Ladies' Frances Magofna and Sally Aguon; A-division's Rolly Bermiso and Arthur Miranda; Tuesday-B's Anson Jones and Dexter Brennan; B-Fanihi's John Cabrera and Scott Guerrero; B-Flame Tree's Tony Tomokane and Polly Omechelang; C-division's Chester Hamoy and Francisco Palacios; and Inter-Government's Jayson John and George Sablan.

Notably, Oceanside Bar & Grill received a special plaque of appreciation and organizer Pacific Amusement thanked all of the sponsors listed above in addition to its main sponsor, Mar-Pac Budweiser, as well as the 19th Hole Bar, Poseidon Bar & Grill, and Seabridge, Inc.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

STRONG

From Page 28

record (games won/loss).

The unranked Lee then extended her winning streak in the quarterfinals after downing No. 7 seed Courtney Eva Huff, 7-5, 6-1. However, Lee missed a second finals stint after bowing to tournament top seed Paige Dargie Alter. The CNMI bet stunned Alter in the opening set, 6-1, and almost completed the upset in the second set before the latter escaped with a tough 7-6 (5) win. Alter then won the deciding third set, 6-3, to end Lee's winning run.

Heras missed the U12 singles quarterfinals after holding a 3-2 record in Group B, just one win short of advancing to the next round. However, she finished strong, claiming three straight wins to top the consolation round.

The 12-year-old CNMI player first blanked Kendra Paea, 6-0, 6-0, and then swept Olivia Jane Moulder in the semifinals, 6-2, 6-1, to march into the finals. Heras then capped her perfect run in the consolation draw with an upset over the fifth ranked Sophie Rose Michl in the finals, 6-3, 6-2.

Lizama did not make it past

the quarterfinals in the boys U12 singles, but barged into the title game in the doubles event. He and teammate Reynald Taaroa swept all their three games in Pool B and then defeated Klaas C.J. Tijsen and Matthew Shearer in the Round of 8, 6-1, 6-4.

Next up for the Lizama-Taaroa pair were the top seeded pair of Ivica Batnozic and Tate Fullerton and Pacific Oceania Team bets prevailed anew, 6-2, 6-4. The finale was an all-Pacific Oceania Team affair with Samoa's Harley Cronin and Guam's Larry Magalasin beating Lizama and Taaroa, 6-0, 6-1.

Heras and Lee also played

in the U12 doubles and had different partners. Lee teamed up with Ruby Coffin and they were unbeaten in pool play, topping five pairs, while Heras and Emma Maucotel earned a 3-2 card.

The four Pacific Oceania Team members advanced to the next round and won their opening matches in the playoffs last Saturday. Lee and Coffin whipped the second-ranked pair of Tharubphet Homkrun and Michl in Round 1, 6-3, 6-0, while Heras and Maucotel prevailed over Jemima Mary Parkinson and Carys Elisabeth Robson in similar scores.

(*Saipan Tribune*)

sive 4-0-0 slate. The Kingfishers logged 18 goals and gave up only 1 to take the top seeding in the playoffs. Koberville Elementary School went on to join WSR in the playoffs after the former earned a 3-0-1 mark. San Vicente Elementary School fell short on its playoff bid after placing third with its 1-1-2 card, while San Antonio (0-2-2) and Dandan Elementary School (0-

1-3) were also ousted.

In the playoffs, which had a round-robin format with the Top 2 teams advancing to the finals, GTC and WSR got off to a good start, shutting out Koberville and Oleai in similar scores, 3-0, respectively. GTC and WSR then engaged in the draw in the second round of the playoffs, while Koberville whipped Oleai, 4-1, to stay

in the hunt for a finals berth. However, the eventual finalists locked spots to the championship round after notching their second win in the third round. GTC blanked Oleai, 4-0, while WSR downed Koberville, 2-0. Koberville went on to prevail against Oleai in the consolation game, which was played last Tuesday. (*Saipan Tribune*)

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It was all Hite from there as the group maintained a daunting, 80-52, favor after the third quarter before coasting to an easy win.

Lauron finished with a game-high total of 30 points, and almost single-handedly bested Yuichiro's Top 3 scorers Jay Achas, Mico Usi, and Marlo Ibanez.

ROLLERS

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down the homestretch.

Rollers' Shane Deleon Guerrero tallied 16 points in the final push in what turned out to be a non-climactic ending. Deleon Guerrero finished with a game-

high total of 32 points, while Clayton Kenty one-upped Brel with 21 checks.

This past Friday, Hite jumped on top, 30-22, after the first quarter off 11 points by Alex Lauron.

A couple of three-balls kept Yuichiro's in contention, however Hite poured it on in the second period and catapulted ahead, 63-35, at halftime off another 10 points by Lauron that was complemented by a quartet of three-pointers by Brian Chan and Ray Babauta.

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FRIDAY

R-Rebels 92 – S Deleon Guerrero 32, Camacho 23, Litulmar 10, Norita 9, Nakayama 6, Santy 5, Omar 3, R Deleon Guerrero 2.

JWS 74 – Kenty 21, Brel 20, Capalad 15, Bisara 8, Alejandro 6.

Scoring by quarters: 20-24, 49-41, 68-68, 92-74.

SATURDAY

First Game

Hite 111 – Lauron 30, Berdez 22, Chan 20, R Babauta 20, D Tenorio 6, J Diaz 4, Mendoza 4, Z Babauta 2, Camacho 2, C Sablan 2.

Yuichiro's Electronics 62 – Achas 13, Usi 11, Ibanez 11, Riodique 10, Cultura 6, Tengco 5

Scoring by quarters: 30-22, 63-35, 80-52, 111-62.

Second Game

Rollers 81 – Factor 20, Morales 15, Ano 11, Malonzo 11, Capuyon 9, Kwon 6, Hambros 6, Iglesias 2, Cayading 1.

Servitek 79 – Mateo 29, Tobias 12, Gabaldon 10, Sebua 10, Javier 7, Detera 5, Alvarez 4, Babauta 4.

Scoring by quarters: 20-12, 33-39, 64-53, 81-79.

Weekend Sports

Merry Christmas for WSR, GTC, and CNMI swimmers

William S. Reyes Elementary School and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School will have a happy holiday break after clinching championship wins in the NMIFA U12 Interscholastic League.

The Kingfishers ruled the boys U12 division of the IFL after beating GTC in the finals last

Thursday at the Garapan Elementary School Field. GTC did not go on school break empty-handed as it took the girls tiara after prevailing over WSR in the second championship game of the day.

Also having a Merry Christmas are CNMI swimmers Rezne Wong, Victoria Chentsova, and Kensuke Kimura. The three Commonwealth bets and coach Minerva Cabrera re-

turned to the island last week after competing in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, where the three swimmers set new personal best times.

More teams and players got early Christmas presents of sorts after prevailing in their respective tournaments.

In the Tan Holdings caging, CTSI/D&Q hoisted the cham-

pionship trophy after downing Shirley's Coffee Shop in the finals, 105-103. Pacific Oriental, Inc. took the third place trophy.

In the M-League Challenge FA Cup, Korean Football Association and Inter Godfather's eliminated Wild Bill's and Paire, respectively, to set up their title duel. The final was played last Friday with KFAS winning the championship.

In the Saipan Golfers Association Ace of the Aces Tournament, Das Krishnan edged Frank Castro in a sudden death playoff.

In the Trench Warz 16: Fire Power, Trench Tech's Jomar "Dynamite" Danas and Chris "No Luv" Layug and Tinian's Rino Reyes of Zeng Zung and Regino "The Kid" Mundo topped separate foes.

In bowling, Raymond Angeles, Diane Camacho, and M.J. Aldan ruled the Saipan Bowling Association-Budweiser December roll-offs played at the Capital Bowling Center.

In swimming, Colin Thompson, Mike Villagomez, and Ed Ewing posted victories in the SSC Masters Swim Meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. (*Saipan Tribune*)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Ed and Jacqueline Ewing and Sean and Paul Plunkett pose for a photo after racing in the SSC Masters Meet last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Franklin Sablan gets ready to plunge into the pool during the SSC Masters Meet held last week at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pacific Oriental Inc.'s Rannie Mejia, left, and Ramsa Tenepere pose with their third place trophy during the awards ceremony for the Tan Holdings caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rezne Wong, Victoria Chentsova, and Kensuke Kimura, pose at the gallery area in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships held at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

December Queen of the Lanes Diane Camacho is flanked by runners-up Gloria Omechelang, left, and Carol McKenzie during the awards ceremony for the SBA event last week at the Capital Bowling Center.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Players and coaches of William S. Reyes Elementary School pose with the perpetual trophy after beating Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in the NMIFA U12 Interscholastic League finals, 2-1, last week at the Garapan Elementary School Field.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CTSI/D&Q players flash the No. 1 sign after ruling the Tan Holdings caging last week.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shirley's Coffee Shop players and supporters pose with their runner-up trophy during the awards ceremony for the Tan Holdings caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



Lakers rally past Warriors in OT in Nash's return

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Falcons top Lions for home-field advantage

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28 MONDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Strong finish for CNMI jr. tennis players



CNMI junior tennis players had a remarkable performance in their last tournament in New Zealand.

Carol Lee made it to the Final Four of the U12 singles division of the 2012 Tennis Auckland Xmas Junior Tournament, Luther Lizama advanced to the U12 doubles finals, and Isabel Heras topped the consolation draw of the U12 singles.

The 11-year-old Lee also swept her pool matches in Group D after shutting out Nancy Fatai last Friday, 6-0, 6-0, at the Manukau Tennis Centre in Auckland. Lee held a 12-0 record in pool play, didn't drop a single set in the elimination, and held a notable 73-18

See STRONG on Page 26

GTC claims girls tiara in IFL

 **Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School** foiled William S. Reyes Elementary School's bid for a sweep in the 2012 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic League after prevailing in the girls finale, 1-0, last Friday at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

The title win in the girls division came after GTC fell to WSR in the boys championship game. The victory also allowed GTC to keep its undefeated record this fall season, while the loss was a sorry one for WSR, which lorded it over in the regular season before falling short in the playoffs.

The champion team is composed of Zodeanna Aldan, Mary Grace Anon, Reiniella Babauta,



A Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School striker goes for a kick during their title game against William S. Reyes Elementary School in the 2012 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic League last Friday at the Garapan Elementary School Field.

Carla Ballesteros, Mary Jo Camacho, Kelsey Conion, Alyssa Gathargneg, Sue Ann Huevos, Jennah Nelson, Monica Norita, Hannah Palacios, Angelica, Leisha, and Lyka Sally, and Dionne Torres. Tawny Barcenas coaches the Binadus, who scored the winning goal in the second half (results provided to *Saipan Tribune* did not indicate who scored for GTC in the finals).

Before its title victory, GTC first topped the Northern Division of the IFL with its perfect 3-0-0 win-draw-loss record. The Binadus downed erstwhile champion Oleai Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, and Garapan Elementary School in the round-robin regular season. The eventual champion never allowed a single goal in the eliminations and scored 13 to rule the division.

See GTC on Page 26

Rollers nip Servitek in Blue Haus caging, 81-79

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

 The Rollers hung on to make it past Servitek, 81-79, in Saturday's Blue Haus 2012 Invitational Basketball League late pairing held at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Meanwhile, Hite routed Yuchiyo's Electronics, 111-62, last Friday and the R-Rebels ran away from JWS, 92-74, in Saturday's curtain raiser.

League organizers have suspended play in light of the holiday season and the games will resume on Jan. 4, beginning 6:30pm with San Antonio taking on Maplas Ka Money followed by Hibiscus versus Yuman Construction at 8pm.

The Rollers did not give its opponents many good looks in the first period and connected with a pair of 3-pointers to help push them in front, 20-14, but Nate Mateo helped Servitek seize control in the second quarter, 39-33, with 11 points going the other way.

The Rollers regrouped at halftime, however, and built a

commanding 64-53 lead heading into crunch time thanks to four strikes from behind the arc, two of which came from C.J. Morales who lead the group with 12 markers.

Servitek mounted a comeback in the fourth quarter, but the Rollers held it together and bagged the win with a pair of late baskets by Prince Factor and John Capuyon. Factor led the victors with 20 points, but Servitek's Mateo led all scorers with 29.

In the opener, the R-Rebels trailed JWS out of the gate, 20-24, as a couple of three-balls by the latter gave them the edge, but the R-Rebels went to work in the second frame and turned the tables on its rival, 49-41, at the break. Edwin Camacho led the charge with 10 points early in the period.

JWS made some adjustments during intermission and managed to lock the match at 68-all in the third quarter thanks largely to 14 points by Jimmy Brel, but the group wilted in the payoff period and were held to just three baskets

See ROLLERS on Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Rollers' Prince Factor, right, defends the baseline against Servitek's Ferdie Tobias during Saturday night's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League matchup held at the Garapan Basketball Court.